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# The Journal Register

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Dear Reader:

We are pleased to provide this week's issue of The Journal Register mailed to every resident in our coverage area for free over the next two weeks. Enclosed you will find a remittance form that you may submit to either start a new subscription or extend your current

one. We resisted the temptation to take to the phones, interrupt your dinner and make our subscription pitch. Instead, our preferred way of continuously growing our readership is to share a couple of copies of the paper with you, enclose a subscription form and await the returns. We're proud of our work and

hope you find it brings you closer to understanding your community. We're hoping for a good response from this campaign because we'll then be able to provide even more value to the local businesses that support us.

There are no plans to rest on our laurels. Our pledge is to continue to work hard at providing even

better local news coverage. Your suggestions as to how we can do a better job are always welcome. We're a local family-owned company with a deep commitment to the towns we serve. We want to meet, and if possible, exceed your expectations.

We'll be arriving at your home next week, too. So please take a

moment to consider the service we provide and enjoy the paper. We hope to be arriving at your home every week for years to come. Thanks so much. Enjoy the fall season.

Sincerely,  
Patrick Turley  
Publisher, Turley Publications  
Palmer, MA

COMMUNITY

## They're all-aboard: Public comment opens on Palmer rail plan

By Michael Harrison  
[mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@turley.com)

PALMER — For the owners of Steaming Tender, it's not a matter of if an east-west rail line from Pittsfield to Boston will have a stop in Palmer, but when.

Scarlett Lamothé, whose father purchased the old Palmer Union Train Station in 1987 and turned it into the iconic downtown restaurant the family still operates, said they recently acquired more nearby property for expanded parking. That's how confident they are that not only will Palmer once again be a prime destination along a thriving rail hub, but also in the power of railroads as an economic driver. It's part of the vision Lamothé's father had when he created the rail-themed restaurant, which is

home to an array of vintage trains and related equipment that are a lure for locomotive enthusiasts from all over.

"He saw the potential Palmer had," Lamothé said. "It was a transportation hub. That's what Palmer was. It was known as 'The Town of Seven Railroads.' Palmer is a crossroads. We have to think always for the future and going forward."

Lamothé spoke as part of a panel that met via Zoom for a "Virtual Rally for a Palmer Rail Stop" that streamed live on Facebook and Twitter Oct. 8 ahead of the Oct. 16 release of a draft report of the Mass. DOT East-West Passenger Rail Study. That will trigger a 30-day public comment period on the study's three options, including a passenger depot in Palmer.

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A 1915 Porter Steam Locomotive greets customers and train enthusiasts at Steaming Tender, whose owners are advocates for a Palmer rail station. The restaurant was created inside the old Palmer Union Station.

POLICE/FIRE

## Palmer PD creating teams to address crisis calls, drug abuse

By Jonah Snowden  
[jsnowden@turley.com](mailto:jsnowden@turley.com)

PALMER — The Palmer Police Department is adding a crisis intervention team and making other operational changes to enhance services for residents.

Police Chief Christopher Burns, who took over the department in February, said the new team would join a network already in place through the region.

"We do that with Behavioral Health Network Inc. out of Springfield and that's going to put some people with us that are experienced in social work," Burns said.

"We're working with other departments in the area, pretty much



The Palmer Police Department, located 4417 Main St., Palmer, is making some operational changes, including the creation of a crisis intervention team.

everyone around here now — Ludlow, Belchertown, Monson, Ware, Wilbraham, etc. — so we'll have regional social workers that will

respond with us for service or for crisis intervention."

Regarding BHN, Burns said, "they're a really good organization to work with" and are "well committed to doing this."

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness' website, police officers trained to work on a crisis intervention team "improve their knowledge and perspective on mental illness and are more skilled with responding to mental health calls."

The Department will also be starting a Drug Abuse Response Team program. "They're (D.A.R.T.) out of Hampshire

PALMER PD | page 7

COVID-19 UPDATE

## Cases up in most places; Halloween on in Palmer, Wales

By Jonah Snowden  
[jsnowden@turley.com](mailto:jsnowden@turley.com)

PALMER/MONSON COVID-19 cases have increased in all but one local town, though only two are considered in the "yellow" or moderate, risk for infection, according to recent statistics from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

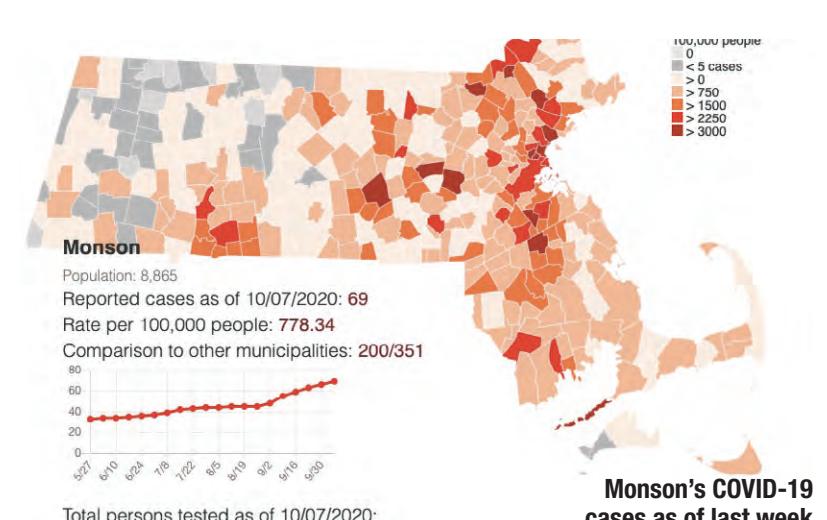
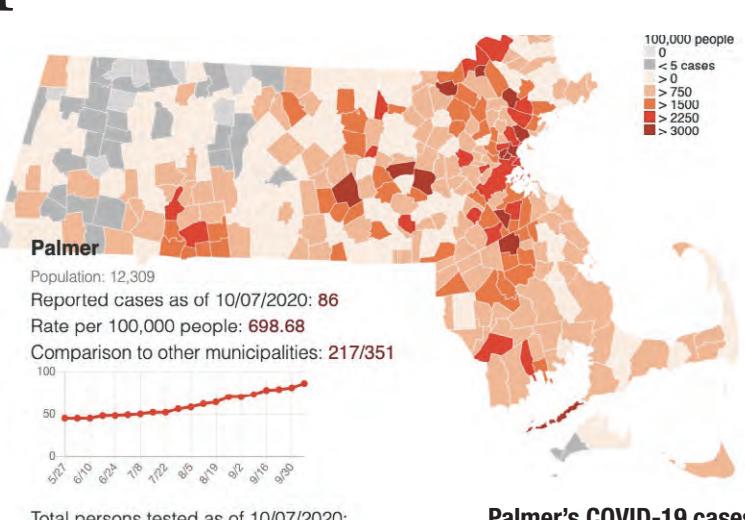
While some towns, including Palmer — where the number of cases have crept up since late summer — are planning to proceed with

trick-or-treating, with Halloween two weeks away, others have yet to decide.

According to the state health department's COVID-19 Dashboard, both Palmer and Monson are in the "yellow" category while Brimfield, Holland and Wales — the lone town where the number of cases flattened — are all "grey" or low-risk. This is how the number of positive cases, reported Oct. 7, changed since late summer:

- Palmer: 86 positive vs. 56 on July 29
- Monson: 69 positive vs 44 on

COVID | page 7



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## Radio X rocks for Monson Lions charity initiative



Turley Publications photos by Michael Harrison  
Peter J. Newland and Radio X perform at Brimfield Winery during a benefit concert to raise money for a new Monson Lions Club COVID-19 relief initiative.

By Michael Harrison  
mharrison@turley.com

BRIMFIELD — A drive-in concert for a new Monson Lions Club COVID-19 relief effort helped raise nearly \$3,000 that will be distributed in local communities.

More than 40 cars streamed onto the field at Brimfield Winery at \$40 per vehicle to tailgate and enjoy a concert by Peter J. Newland and Radio X. There were food trucks and of course micro-brews at cider created by the host venue. In addition to \$1,600 in ticket sales, the Lions also collected \$1,100 in other donations.



Concert-goers who showed up at Brimfield Winery were able to enjoy social-distanced tailgating while listening to live music by Peter J. Newland and Radio X. Proceeds benefited a new Lions Club charity.

This was the first event in an on-going campaign to help residents in the Monson, Brimfield, Wales, and Holland communities and is concurrent with the Lion's continuing mission to aid the vision and hearing impaired, among other causes. Donations to this cause can be made by mailing a check or money order to: Monson Lions Club PO Box 142 Monson, MA 01057 (please note "for Community aid" so that these funds are targeted to this special cause.) For more information, go to [Monsonlionsclub.org](http://Monsonlionsclub.org), email [monsonlionsclub@gmail.com](mailto:monsonlionsclub@gmail.com) or visit the Monson Lions Club on Facebook.



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## Grants up to \$10,000 available to local small businesses

The Town of Palmer is leading a regional Microenterprise Assistance Grant Program, awarding up to \$10,000 to eligible businesses in Palmer, Belchertown, Hampden, Hardwick, Ludlow, Monson and Ware that have experienced financial loss due to Covid-19 and the associated shut downs.

Eligible businesses must have five employees or fewer (including the owner), must have been in business since Jan. 1, 2019, and must be able to demonstrate revenue loss caused by the pandemic. The business owner's family income must fall within certain limits. Other eligibility requirements apply.

The Town of Palmer was award-

ed \$700,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant funds. The money is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Federal CARES Act and administered by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (for this regional program. The Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, located in Ware, is administering the program locally.

"We are grateful to the federal government and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to have this opportunity to assist our region's small businesses during this very difficult time," says Sarah Szc-

zebak, community development director for the Town of Palmer.

"We encourage all eligible small businesses in these seven towns to apply for a Microenterprise Assistance Grant."

Applications for the program became available on Oct. 16. Grant awards will be made on a first-come, first-served basis until the funds are exhausted. Applications are available on the QVCDC website at [QVCDC.org](http://QVCDC.org). Paper copies of the application are also available at the QVCDC office in Ware.

To learn more about the Microenterprise Assistance Grant Program, contact Melissa Fales at [melissa@qvcdc.org](mailto:melissa@qvcdc.org) or 413-967-3001.

## Disposing of leaves?

Here's when you can in Palmer

Fall (updated) Compost leaf schedule off of Old Warren Rd. Palmer

DATES	TIME
Saturday, Oct 17	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Oct 18	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, Oct 24	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Oct 25	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday Oct 31	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Nov 1	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov 7	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Nov 8	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov 14	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Nov 15	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov 21	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Nov 22	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov 28	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Nov 29	9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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## Correction

A story in the Oct. 1 edition of the Journal Register about the Monson Senior Center published an incorrect phone number for the center. The correct number is 413-267-4121. Accuracy is our No. 1 priority. If you spot an error in our newspaper, please email Editor Michael Harrison at [mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@turley.com).

## Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at [mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@turley.com), or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

## DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email the Editor at [mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@turley.com) or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

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One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

# Space found for recovery center

By Eileen Kennedy  
Staff writer

WARE – The Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance has found a home for the Ware Regional Recovery Center in the office space above Hanna Devine's Restaurant at 91 Main St., according to Nekki Jenkins and Gail Gramarossa, who facilitate the alliance meetings.

For several years the Quaboag Hills Community Coalition, to which the QHSUA belongs, has been exploring a regional peer recovery center as there is essentially nothing available between Worcester and Springfield.

Space became available above the well-known restaurant due to a tenant leaving, and the lease is expected to be nailed down in a few days, Jenkins said.

"It's just perfect and gives us room to grow," she said, after describing the space as having a small office and a larger conference room.

It's central location in Ware is important to the 15 or so towns included in the alliance from the Brookfields to Palmer, Monson and Ludlow.

"We're going to have a space that's right downtown in Ware and that's really exciting," Jenkins said.

Palmer resident Abigail Duda is the project coordinator for the initiative to locate a place for the center, which has been running virtual all recovery meetings since COVID-19 restrictions began in the spring.

The group tasked with finding a home for the peer-led recovery center have been looking for several months, with some spaces too expensive and others not quite what they were looking for.

Gramarossa said the alliance just turned six about a month ago, and this



Turley Publications staff photo by Paula Ouimette

A location has been found for the peer-led Ware Regional Recovery Center above Hanna Devine's restaurant at 91 Main St.

will be a great step forward.

People who are interested in recovery from using drugs, whether they be opioids or other substances, will be able to get advice and participate in recovery groups once they are held in person. There will be room for about six people, while observing social distance guidelines.

The idea is to offer people connections to different types of recovery programs, not just 12-step programs, Jenkins said. "It will be broader, offering smart recovery and all recovery," she said. It will also offer connections to other services, whether it be food, housing or counseling.

Gramarossa said surveys done with those in recovery in the area also said they would like a place where there were social events such as movie nights or yoga classes.

Mary Kate Farley-Dimino, of the Western Mass Training Coalition, which the WRRC group is working with, said two different types of grants were being pursued: a grant from the Attorney General's office, which would be less than \$100,000, and a second grant from Baystate Healthcare, which could be used to pay for the physical space.

Gramarossa said the WMTC has the resources and knowledge to apply for

these grants, and the group is considered an expert on putting together peer recovery groups and other services.

### Federal grant

Gramarossa spoke briefly about the federal Strategic Prevention Framework – Partnerships for Success that the Quaboag Hills Community Coalition and the QHSUA were able to secure for the area. A job offer has made to a candidate for the director's position and the group is looking to hire an epidemiologist soon. The multi-year grant will help communities start their own substance use groups and drug prevention activities.

## Polling place change for Nov. 3

The voting location in Monson has changed for the Nov. 3 General Election only: Voting will take place at Quarry Hill School-43. Use the Margaret St. Pool entrance.

Early voting will take place Oct. 17-30 in the Selectmen's Conference Room at the Town Office Building at 110 Main Street during the following times: 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays and Sundays October

17, 18, 24 and 25 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Oct. 19 and 26 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays. Questions? Contact the Monson Town Clerk's office at 413-267-4115 or [townclerk@monson-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@monson-ma.gov).



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## Walsh resigns post at Holyoke Soldiers' Home

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

home.

WALYKE – In a move considered a surprise given his fights in court, Holyoke Soldiers Home Superintendent Bennett Walsh has resigned from the position, just a few days before the Board of Trustees were set to meet again and possibly remove Walsh from the position.

Walsh was originally fired in June by Gov. Charlie Baker.

Baker cited a report by a Boston attorney which among the many faults, found Walsh and his medical director at fault for a massive COVID-19 outbreak that resulted in the deaths of 76 residents of the

Walsh then resigned on Friday,

Oct. 2.

Walsh is facing neglect charges levied by Attorney General Maura Healey. Healey launched her own investigation into the deaths at the Soldiers Home and found Walsh and his medical director David Clinton, responsible for part of the outbreak. Both were indicted by a grand jury on 10 criminal counts. Walsh is being accused of criminal negligence.

Walsh was appointed as the superintendent of the home in 2016. His predecessor, Paul Barabani, re-

signed and retired due to a lack of funding and staffing. Several organizations have called for more funding for the home and for renovations and improvements. On Monday night, the Agawam City Council even approved a resolution supporting more funding for the Soldiers Home. Agawam is host to the Veterans Memorial Cemetery, a regional burial ground for veterans and their spouses.

The Oct. 5 meeting was cancelled due to the lack of need to discuss the issue. A search will get underway to

name a new superintendent.

Walsh will still have to answer to the charges he is facing in criminal court. His uncle, former District Attorney William Bennett, represented him as he fought the actions by the state. All lawsuits fighting his dismissal have been dropped and Bennett said in a statement Walsh would be focusing on being acquitted of the criminal charges.

Clinton resigned back in June, as did Secretary of Veterans Affairs Francisco Urena.

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Courtesy photo  
Michelle Rondeau and her grandfather Alvin Rondeau circa 1995.

## Rondeau's started with \$200, a dream and a secret recipe

*Editor's note: The following are excerpts from a history of Rondeau's and a memoir written by Michelle Rondeau, Dick Rondeau's daughter and Alvin's granddaughter.*

By Michelle Rondeau

When I tell people that my brothers and sisters and I began working for my grandfather between the ages of 10 and 12 their eyes grow big with amazement. We have to laugh to ourselves. People aren't appalled at my family for putting us to work at such a young age but they want to ask questions with excitement and envy because my grandfather's business was serving homemade ice cream. Proudly each one of us can tell stories of the experience we each had learning responsibility and work ethic. And each of us knows how proud my grandfather was of each one of us.

While most kids in our school couldn't wait for summer breaks to go to the beach, or just hang out, we had to wait and see when we'd be working in order to plan our activities. The summer family get-togethers that others had were to us a busy day scooping ice cream. This made our family get-togethers in the winter much more special.

Sometimes it was difficult and we thought we were "missing out" on the fun. What we did gain was quality time spent with a grandfather that adored us

SECRET RECIPE | page 5



Rondeau's wows the crowd again at the annual Big E, where their ice cream is always a hit.



Alvita the cow is an iconic fixture at Rondeau's.

### RONDEAUS | from page 1

presented Rondeau's with a special citation celebrating the milk bar's 80 years in business and its status as a local treasure. Palmer Town Councilman Bob Lavoie also was on-hand for the presentation.

Michael Rondeau, whose grandfather Alvin opened the shop that became a family legacy, said it all started on the family farm in Palmer.

"He came down off the farm and he started the ice cream business and the other brothers went into the dairy business and worked it through the years at different times," he said.

Eventually, they branched out, but the Palmer shop grew the deepest roots.

"There was one in West Springfield and the [1955] flood took that, and he had one in South Hadley and that was taken

away by the highway," Rondeau said. "But this place has always remained."

Michael's father, Dick, born two years after Rondeau's opened, eventually worked there. When Michael was 12, Alvin taught him how to make ice cream for the first time, "and along the years my father and I got into the 'Big E,'" the Eastern States Exposition, where they were an annual hit. Alvina the cow, the iconic Rondeau's mascot (she's a sculpture) and her array of costumes, became a fixture there. These days Alvina is sporting a protective mask, a subtle reminder of the shop's "no mask, no service" policy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Both Alvin and Dick, along with Dick's wife Carol, have all since passed. Dick and Carol, high school sweethearts, both died in 2018.

All of the public officials at the event shared their Rondeau's stories. Lavoie said he's known the family and has been a customer since moving to town 20 years ago.



Turley Publications staff photo by Michael Harrison  
Rondeau's staffers Cara Gagne, Jordan Bezzell, Kayleigh Kenney, and Thomas Roberts open up for business last Thursday and get ready to serve the lunch crowd.



Courtesy photo  
Father and son, Alvin and Dick Rondeau, in front of the family business.

### FUN FACTS

#### I'll have the usual

We asked each of the three public officials celebrating Rondeau's 80th anniversary what their favorite flavors are. Here's what they had to say:

Bob Lavoie: Elvina Tracks

Anne Gobi: Coconut

Todd Smola: Maple walnut.

cer for Rondeau's treats.

"You know in Spencer, we had Dairy Queen, which we still do, but that's soft serve. If you wanted to go somewhere to get hard ice cream, this is where you'd get it. This was like a big Sunday trip for us when we were young," Gobi said.

For Smola, Rondeau's was always a family tradition.

"I've been coming to Rondeau since I was knee-high to a grasshopper," he said.

"I'm from a five-generation family in Palmer, so I was born and bred in Palmer, even though I live in Warren now."

And Rondeau's was a staple on our weekly menu whenever it was open. We come here to get ice cream and the great Polish food, which is something in my family's history. You can get great ice cream, get yourself a kielbasa sandwich and get great clams here. It's excellent. They know what they're doing."

Now that the 80-year milestone has been celebrated, how about a grand 100?

"Yes," Michael Rondeau said. "That's what I'm planning."

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Monson priorities can be found online at mass-culture.org/Monson along with the link to the online application. The deadline for applications is Nov. 16.

### SECRET RECIPE | from page 4

and only wanted us to learn from the best. When we look back at those times we didn't miss out on the fun – we had fun with him and his business.

Being his grandchildren made some people think he gave us special treatment but we were treated just the same. At the end of each workday my sister and I received a big hug and kiss and my brothers got a handshake. Then all of the employees left at the end of each day he'd say "thank you" to everyone.

In today's world when one wants to start their own business and be successful they only think that they can't do it without money or an education. In April 1940, with only a few years of high school education and \$200 to be borrowed, my grandfather built Alvin Rondeau's Dairy Bar on a corner piece of his father's land in Palmer. Tired of the insurance business he was working in, he took the money, hired two men for \$100 and spent a week's vacation constructing his new business.

While still working in insurance he ran the ice cream stand with his wife-to-be Nora, mother Elmira and sisters Olive and Lorraine. (Hence the beginning of the family business). Olive had the opportunity to attend UMASS Amherst Agricultural School and learn the process of ice cream making and then taught my grandfather step by step what she had learned. While Olive made the ice cream in the basement at the Dairy Bar, where it is still made today, Elmira and Lorraine managed the counter.

Ice cream cones were only 5 and 10-cents each back then. My grandparents married that same year at the end of the summer season and the business and family grew.

My grandfather never took all of the credit for himself. He credits an old friend in Rhode Island by the name of Alfonse Fiore with providing him with the "recipe" for ice cream. When he first started, 20 flavors of ice cream were made.

"No sprinkles?" customers would ask. And he would cringe at the thought and tell them that sprinkles would ruin the flavor he worked so hard to make.

## Scout's 'glory days' on ballfield inspired Eagle project



Fellow Troop 164 Scouts Peter and Thomas Traugh assisted Aidan Day fixing up dugouts in Burleigh Park.

By Jonah Snowden  
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – It took a lot of hard work, but Boy Scout Troop 164 gained itself a new potential Eagle Scout.

Troop 164 member Aidan Day recently finished his Eagle Scout project, which was refurbishing three dugouts in Burleigh Park. He reached out to local businesses, including Allied Flooring and Panting Corp., Luke's Beer & Wine Convenience Store and others, for donations and assistance with the project.

Day said this project, which he started last fall, was something he chose because Burleigh Park holds fond memories for him.

"I played baseball here for about nine years as a kid, and every year we played the field were just embarrassing,"

Day said.

"The outfield there had big dirt patches everywhere and every time the wind blew a dust storm would emerge and you'd have to stop playing for a couple minutes. The town's been on the fields recently and they've been working on them, so I thought I'd do the dugouts for them."

Completing this project, along with earning a few more merit badges, will help Day reach the highest level of achievement a Scout can receive.

"It feels good," he said.

Day was not alone in his project and received assistance



Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden

Troop 164 Scoutmaster Scott Day, Aidan's dad, supported his son's Eagle Scout project.

from fellow Troop 164 members Anthony Serricchio and siblings Peter and Thomas Traugh, who were more than happy to help.

"He's my friend and he needs Eagle," Peter said. "I want him to get Eagle, so I want to just help him out to get close to that goal."

Thomas offered similar sentiments.

"It's just really satisfying, that like you, you know that you help somebody achieve their goal," he said.

Scott Day, Troop 164 Scoutmaster and Aidan's dad, said he also was happy

for and proud of his son for taking on what he called an "intensive project" to fix years of neglect.

"We had to power wash everything and rip the roofs off and rebuild them, so I was proud of him he grew up playing here and I coached him for nine years so he loved the fields and he wanted to give back to the fields he grew up on," the elder Day said.

Anyone interesting in joining the Boy Scouts can reach out to Scoutmaster Day at 413-355-6034 or send an email to ty23cdy@yahoo.com.

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# Viewpoints

## editorial

### A Palmer stop on an east-west rail line benefits all of us

Let's do a quick comparison of Western Massachusetts and Boston. To the east is a major metropolitan city with all that implies – high-end jobs and other opportunities for advancement, top retail brand shopping, a diversity of restaurants. Boston also has an affordable housing crisis. And when you drive there from outside the city, parking is no picnic to say the least.

Here in our region of the state, we have terrific schools and an educated workforce, affordable housing, towns like Palmer and Monson with a walkable downtown dotted with shops. We have a state forest with a variety of trails for hiking and biking. There are lakes, a winery, creameries, rows of antique shops, restaurants and pubs of all types of sizes.

Clearly, there's great potential for a symbiotic relationship. That's why advocates, including state and local officials, of an east-west rail link from Boston to Western-Mass. with a station in Palmer having been working for years to make it a reality.

In a virtual rally held recently ahead of this week's release to the public of a draft MassDOT East-West Passenger Rail Study, a panel of those trying to make the Palmer station a reality detailed the advantages the project represents not just for the region, but for the state. For example, Palmer Town Councilwoman Jessica Sizer, a graduate of UMass Amherst, made the point that many students there would love the opportunity to access Boston by rail and would be a likely source of tourist foot-traffic in Palmer and surrounding areas either on the way there or home – or both.

After some well-strategized branding and marketing campaigns, it's not difficult to envision tourists of all ages, armed with cash and a ride-sharing app, planning daytrips to our area. Think for a moment about the positive impact this could have.

Conversely, what a boon it would be for Boston to have a vast new source of tourism streaming to the city. And that's one of the main arguments made by state Senators Eric P. Lesser and Anne M. Gobi, who are tasked with convincing their legislative colleagues to the east that this is in their best interests as well.

The idea of connectivity through the state as an economic driver is not new, as other panelists, who are experts in these issues, said. Doing it with a rail link makes all the sense in the world. The infrastructure is already there. It's sustainable and has other environmental benefits, such as reducing auto traffic throughout the state. And if works elsewhere, why not here?

It seems the only salient argument so far is the cost. Yes, this would take over \$1 billion in taxpayer money to complete, but that doesn't necessarily mean it would all have to come from state coffers. The federal government could make funds available through community development block grants, for example.

And if you consider the big picture, the cost should not be a concern. The long-term gain of business owners both in our area and in Boston being more accessible to more customers, the sales tax revenue they would generate, increased property values and an enhanced profile would eventually allow this project to pay for itself.

Logistics certainly should not be a concern, as Lesser commented during the rally. Infinitely more complex feats of engineering are evident world-wide. Again, why not here?

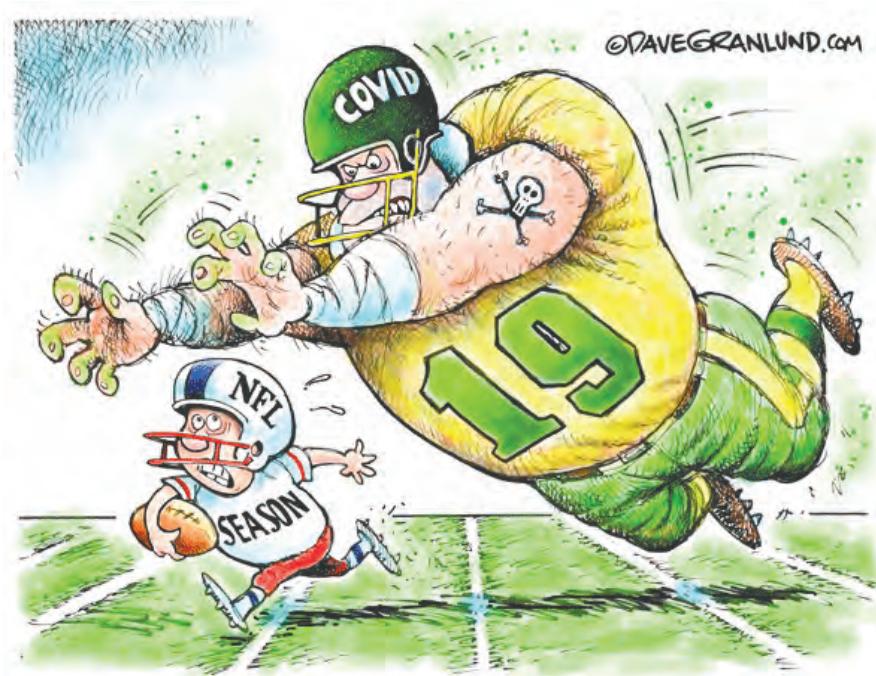
So, what can you do? A 30-day public comment period begins this week with the release of the draft study. If you're not familiar with this plan, please take the time to view it at [mass.gov/east-west-passenger-rail-study](http://mass.gov/east-west-passenger-rail-study). Then go on record with the state to make sure your voice is heard.

Another opportunity is Oct. 22, when the public can participate in a videoconference via Zoom from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Instructions on how to attend will be available on Mass.gov closer to the meeting date.

Projects of this scale can seem intimidating, but don't let that get in the way. Learn the facts, ask questions and then make your best judgement. Please keep in mind this important caveat: Opportunities to make transformative and long-lasting change are few and far between.

We have faith that the east-west rail is a winner both for our region and Massachusetts as a whole.

Will you get on-board, too?



### My favorite flowering bulbs and why

This is the first year in a long time that I won't be planting spring flowering bulbs. I want to, in fact I had more than one internet shopping cart close to the check-out point. But alas, the frugal side of me won, and I closed the cover of the laptop before reaching for the credit card. You see, I already have numerous bulbs in the yard. But for those of you embarking on the wonderful world of spring bulbs, here are a few tips to ensure your success followed by a few of my all-time favorite varieties.

The general rule of thumb for planting spring flowering bulbs is to sink them into the ground at a depth of two times the height of the bulb. For example: If a tulip bulb is three inches from its point to its base, then plant it six inches deep. The same rule determines how far apart you plant bulbs from one another, only this time it goes by width. Therefore, a crocus corm that is only one inch wide should be planted two inches apart from its closest neighbor. Nearly all gardeners agree that spring-flowering bulbs look most appealing when planted in clumps, rather than planted singly or in rows.

For major bulbs such as tulips, narcissus or hyacinth, this translates into groups of at least three. For so-called minor bulbs like crocus, galanthus and muscari, I'd plant five at the very minimum. If deer eat the tops of your emerging tulips or crocus, consider planting hyacinth and narcissus instead. Rodents often times find crocus bulbs yummy. Dissuade them by filling the bottom of the planting hole with sharp gravel. You can also try planting them in little cages made of half-inch galvanized hardware cloth.

Now for some of my favorites: 'Barrett Browning,' is a chart-topping daffodil with a creamy-white petals and a bright orange cup. It's a dependable bloomer in the garden and also does well indoors. Try forcing some of these in a pot for successful indoor blooms after a few weeks in the refrigerator. 'Thalia,' an entirely white daffodil, is an heirloom and known as the orchid narcissus. It's very fragrant and prolific. Poeticus daffodils have white petals, a red-rimmed

"eye" and are unusually fragrant. Speaking of fragrant, many of the double daffodils sport a heady scent and 'Sir Winston Churchill' is no exception. An orange/yellow center is surrounded by numerous ivory petals.

Two of my favorite tulips hail from the single early class. Typically this group are short-stemmed, ranging in height from 12 to 18 inches and have egg-shaped blooms. Treasured heirlooms 'Couleur Cardinal' with its deep red flowers and 'Keizerkroon,' a red and yellow bicolor, are both single early tulips. Double early tulips bloom in late March/early April and come in a variety of pastel and bright colors. Durable stems top off at 10-12" tall. Try growing the yellow cultivar 'Monte Carlo' with an underplanting of blue hyacinth. Just stunning! One of my favorite all-time orange tulips is 'Gudoshnik,' a double-late tulip. Conjure up deep orange, butterscotch, rust and even sulfur and you will still be short a few shades when trying to describe this peony-like tulip to your gardening friends.

Either you love or you hate hyacinths. Some folks call them too stiff for the garden. Others say the fragrance is too strong for inside the house. This poor flower can't win. But for those of us who are fans, I say the more the merrier. We often see hyacinths in pastels, pinks and blues. Less common are the yellow and orange shades. Try 'City of Haarlem,' for a true light yellow or 'Gipsy Queen,' for a lovely tone of salmon.

All of this talk about spring flowering bulbs makes me want to open up the laptop to a certain shopping cart. You only live once, right? And having a few more flowers in the yard isn't such a bad thing, is it?

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

spouse to start benefits first at age 62. For one thing, it depends upon whether they are still working, but it also depends upon health, life expectancy, and need for the money early.

Nevertheless, if your wife's current age 62 benefit is \$656, then her benefit at her full retirement age (had she waited) would have been about \$895. This is known as her Primary Insurance Amount, or "PIA." Spouse benefits are computed using PIA amounts, so your full retirement age benefit will be \$2,850, here's how your wife's spousal benefit will be calculated if you claim your Social Security after your wife has already reached her FRA:

• 50% of your FRA benefit (PIA) is \$1,425. Because your wife's PIA is \$895, her spousal boost is \$530 (\$1,425 - \$895). Her spousal boost (\$530) will be added to her actual early benefit (\$656) and her new benefit amount as your spouse, at her FRA, will be about \$1,186. Obviously, less than half of your FRA benefit amount.

The computation changes if you claim your Social Security benefit now, before your wife has reached her full retirement age, because getting her spouse benefit before her FRA means her spouse

SOCIAL SECURITY | page 7

## Letters to the Editor

### Passenger train service west of Worcester?

Why not start small? Our grandchildren who love Thomas the Tank engine stories learn about friendly good service provided by just Thomas and his two coaches Annie and Clarabel.

To develop improved rail passenger service west of Worcester we could and should start small.

Begin with one engine and two coaches a day on the Worcester to Palmer and Springfield and over the hills to Chester and Pittsfield. Consider providing refreshments for travelers as they watch our beautiful scenery go by.

Work with CSX who owns the tracks to schedule times that work around freight schedules, and suit East-West passenger needs passengers without duplicating AMTRAK's Lake Shore Limited. That could create some good "P.R." for Amtrak and CSX.

We hear hopeful talk about East West rail, but too much focus on big size and enormous costs.

Can't we begin "starting small" with something less complicated and costly to serve the public and learn what the ridership will be?

If starting this way proves successful with people riding and desiring more service that will be a clear green signal to move down the line towards bigger plans. This could begin in months, not years.

We could and should work on this now. Why wait for years of more studies and higher startup costs?

**William B. Freedberg,**  
North Hampton

### Local small businesses show generosity

The Palmer Branding Group [PBG] thanks the following businesses that contributed funds for our Palmer-based charities and non-profits. Despite

their financial struggles during this pandemic, these small business proprietors reached out to assist their fellow citizens with great generosity and benevolence. Hopefully, you will support these businesses whenever possible. Several citizens also donated significant funds to ensure survival of these charities.

The Honor Roll - Valero gas station, Sonny's Variety, Stolar Inst. Benoit and Co., AAGGO Movers, Fire Group Services, Les' Auto Center, Crimmins + Graveline Ins., Rondeau's Drivein, Demore's Automotive, Kopec's Truck Service, Steer-Rite Inc., Tranquility Central, Corner Variety (Thorndike), Dr. W. Vignault, Palmer Chiropractic, Tailgate Tavern, Dr. Kelly, Three Rivers Fire Assoc., Marhelewich CPA, Gin Mill, Four Corner Gas, Interactive Schoolhouse, Denise Fontaine-Pincence, Lorraine J. Wisnewski, David Whitney and Anonymous Donors (4).

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Paul Wisnewski, Marc Garveline,  
John Sasur, and Bob Haveles.

### Let's be clear about democracy

**By Lee H. Hamilton**  
Staff writer

I've been in and around politics for a long time, and not once, ever, have I encountered a candidate who said he or she might not accept the results of an election. Until now.

Certainly, in close-fought races candidates might ask for a recount. But once the precinct workers and town and city clerks and secretaries of state have checked and re-checked and certified, we consider the matter settled. We accept and abide by the results—at least until the next election. This year, we can't take that for granted.

Why does this trouble so many of us? Let's take a step back and start with the idea of elections themselves. In the end, democracy is about understanding and respecting the will of the people. We do this primarily by asking them to vote. This is what puts elections at the core of the American system: they are literally how we Americans decide where we're going to head as a nation. The elections process is at the center of who we are.

In fact, voting—and ensuring that the vote is fair and transparent—is how the institutions that represent us function. When the House of Representatives is deciding on policy, it votes. When the Supreme Court needs to decide a case, it votes. When state legislatures and city councils and New England town meetings have to set a budget or decide on taxes, they vote. Those votes are public, and they're tallied, and that's how we have confidence that the issue was decided fairly.

When elections are done, we commit to a peaceful transfer of power to the winners. We hand power to them without taking up arms and without casting doubt on the legitimacy of their win. That's been part and parcel of who we are for centuries, and it's one of the features of our system that has made the US a beacon to others.

Now, however, we have a president who specifically questions whether or not he will accept the result of the election and step down peacefully. He talks—jokes, he says—about serving beyond his constitutionally-allotted time, raising the specter of an American authoritarianism that once seemed inconceivable. And if the election does not go the way he wants it to, he may do what he's done for much of his adult life: litigate and insist on its illegitimacy. All of these are extraordinary

## Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [dfarmer@turley.com](mailto:dfarmer@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

## Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

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The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

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**SOCIAL SECURITY** | from page 6

sal boost will be reduced (she automatically gets her spousal benefit when you claim).

The reduction to the spousal boost is actuarial, according to the number of months before her FRA that it is taken. If you were to claim now when your wife is 64, her spousal benefit would be computed like this:

The spousal boost amount of \$530 would be reduced because your wife hasn't yet reached her FRA. Instead of the full \$530 spousal boost, it would be reduced to about \$442. The reduced spousal boost is added to your wife's early Social Security benefit of \$656, for a total benefit of about \$1,098. Once again, less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount.

So, as you can see, because your wife took her own benefit at age 62, she cannot get a spousal benefit equal to 50% of your FRA benefit, regardless of when you claim. If you claim your Social Security before your wife reaches her FRA, your wife's spousal boost amount will be reduced, further lowering the total benefit amount your wife is entitled to as your spouse. The basic rule is this: any time any Social Security benefit is taken before one reaches their full retirement age, that benefit is reduced. And a spouse who claims their own SS retirement benefit before FRA will never get a spouse benefit equal to 50% of the other spouse's PIA.

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**HAMILTON** | from page 6

statements, out of line with everything we've come to accept about our elections.

There is no question that these will be difficult elections to administer. If nothing else, the pandemic ensures that. We're accustomed to knowing election results by the end of the night, but this year a lot of votes will come in later, and it's expected that days or even weeks could go by before we know the winner. This will not be because voter fraud is taking place; as FBI director Christopher Wray just told Congress, there's very little evidence that it exists. Instead, it will be because the hard-working women and men who administer our elections at the local level will be doing their level best to ensure that every eligible voter's ballot gets counted.

Already, President Trump seems to have much of his base convinced that the only way he could possibly lose is by fraud. This is a president who insisted there was fraud even after winning the 2016 election. So, the challenge is, how do we uphold this core feature of our democracy? How do we ensure the results are accepted as legitimate? These are tough questions for our democracy, but I do know one thing: Every state and local election official has to do their best to ensure that everyone who is entitled to vote can cast a ballot, and that those ballots are counted as transparently as possible, without vote-suppression shenanigans.

*Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*

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# Mass Fine Arts Center offers free Jazz at Lincoln Center course



## "Jazz as a Tool for Liberation" starting Oct. 26

Together with UMass Amherst's University Without Walls, the UMass Fine Arts Center hosts a free, six-session course taught by Jazz at Lincoln Center's director of education resources and public programming, Seton Hawkins, every Monday and Wednesday between Oct. 26 and Nov. 11, from 6 to 7 p.m. Participants do not need to attend all scheduled classes, but registration must be received by Oct. 19. Course information and registration links are available at [fineartscenter.com/JLCo](http://fineartscenter.com/JLCo).

The "Jazz as a Tool of Liberation" course leads participants through jazz history from the 1920s through the 1960s, focusing on particular artists and works to highlight musical and societal shifts and progressions. The schedule is as follows (content subject to change):

**Monday, Oct. 26:** Louis Armstrong - West End Blues, 1920s

**Wednesday, Oct. 28:** Billie Holiday - Strange Fruit, 1930s

**Monday, Nov. 2:** Duke Ellington - Black, Brown and Beige, 1940s

**Wednesday, Nov. 4:** Charlie Parker - Now's the Time, 1940s

**Monday, Nov. 9:** John Coltrane - Giant Steps, 1950s

**Wednesday, Nov. 11:** Nina Simone - Four Women, 1960s

University Without Walls makes the course available through its online course program Blackboard free of charge. Participants are able to log into the course environment on Blackboard as early as the previous Saturday to be able to complete course readings and view related videos prior to meeting with Hawkins to discuss content on Monday and Wednesday. The live portion of the course is conducted via Zoom, accessible through Blackboard, and periodically include members of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. Following this course, the Fine Arts Center presents "The Sounds of Democracy," a new concert program by the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra Septet with Wynton Marsalis, on Sunday, Nov. 15, at 3 p.m. ET. This digital concert presentation is followed by a live question and answer session with Wynton Marsalis. The concert was filmed on Sept. 27, at Frederick P. Rose Hall in New York City in accordance with the New York State Department of Health Interim Guidance on

Media Production.

The concert features the premiere of "The Democracy Suite," a new Marsalis composition written during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis as a response to the political, social and economic struggles facing our nation. "The Democracy Suite" is a swinging and stimulating instrumental rumination on the issues that have recently dominated our lives as well as the beauty that could emerge from a collective effort to create a better future.

The Septet features Wynton Marsalis, trumpet/music director; Elliot Mason, trombone; Ted Nash, alto saxophone and flute; Walter Blanding, tenor and soprano saxophones; Dan Nimmer, piano; Carlos Henriquez, bass; and Obed Calvaire, drums.

This engagement with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra is sponsored by Applewood and Loomis Communities and New England Public Media. The UMass Fine Arts Center is supported by the New England Foundation for the Arts through the New England Arts Resilience Fund, part of the United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund, an initiative of the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with major funding from the federal CARES Act from the National Endowment for the Arts.

**COVID** | from page 1

July 29

• Brimfield: 15 positive vs. 9 on July 29  
\* Holland: 12 positive vs. 9 on July 29  
• Wales: 5 positive vs. 5 July 29

On Tuesday, most towns were undecided about a Halloween policy. In Palmer, Town Manager Ryan McNutt said even though some traditional

events, like the costume parade, have been cancelled, trick-or-treating will be allowed.

"It's going to work the way it's worked every Oct. 31, McNutt said.

"They (residents) are going to be safe. They've been lectured all year long on what to do. They know how they're going to do it safely and they're very appreciative of the ability to make that personal choice."

In the Town of Wales, Pamela Leduc, executive secretary for the Board of Selectmen, said participation in the holiday will be permitted and the town will be sending out a postcard detailing guidelines for Halloween.

"They have CDC guidelines on there, best practices, suggestions," Leduc said. "That's being mailed to each household at the end of the week."

**CDC guidelines**

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to prevent catching it, CDC guidelines include:

- Staying at least six feet away from each other to reduce the spread.
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds, after being in a public place, coughing, or

sneezing.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a face mask when in public.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

To learn more about the CDC guidelines, visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://cdc.gov/coronavirus).

**PALMER PD** | from page 1

Hope, up in Northampton and they've done well up there," Burns said.

"They're a good program, offer a lot of support and basically what they are is if we have somebody that's having drug abuse issues, we'll help them get assistance that they need. That's something we really haven't had in place. We've always been able to try and get them so help, but unfortunately, it's never been as well structured as D.A.R.T. is. We will have officers that just specialize in that."

With dedicated officers assigned to handle drug abuse calls, Burns said they

try to also get family, friends and close people involved with the individual suffering from an addiction problem.

"Hopefully we can help them," Burns said. "Giving a friend or family member the resources might be more effective."

Burns said planning and training for new programs, as well as an initiative to add accreditation, will enhance operations in a number of areas.

Becoming an accredited aid agency, Burns said, "involves a certification process with the Massachusetts Police Commission on Accreditation."

"It's a bit of a process, but it involves a self-assessment period, where you go through your own policies and procedures to bring everything up to date and so that you're dealing with the best practices."

He also said through accreditation, the department will have an outside agency looking over them, to make sure they are operating according to standards.

"Every time we create a policy, we do it with those accreditation standards in place," said Burns. "When we review a policy, we do them with those stan-

dards in place."

By 2021, Burns said the department will apply to MPAC, which by that time, will review and assist with the self-assessment.

"It's just a matter of time, regarding getting everything in place, so that we're ready for that," said Burns. "That process generally takes anywhere from one to three years."

For questions, concerns, or reports that anyone would like to make with the Palmer Police Department, can call them at 413-283-8792.

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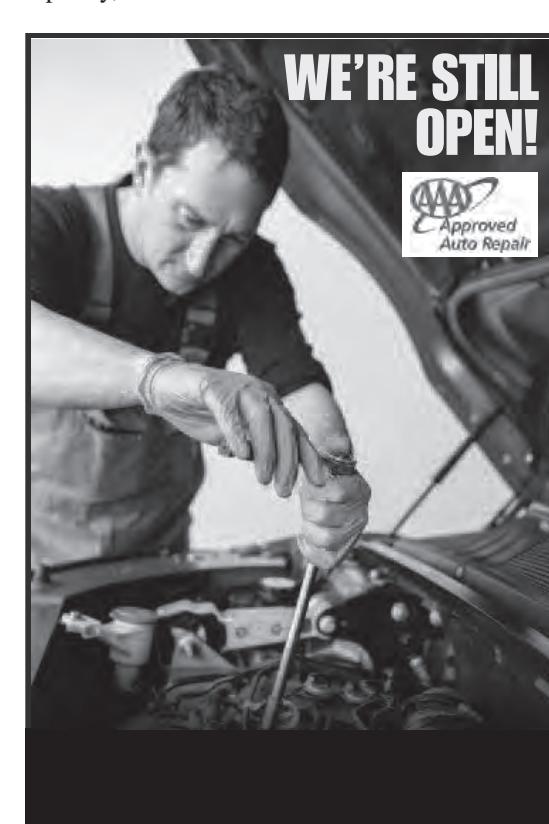
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Debbie Kelder, executive director of the Scantic Valley YMCA, displays a collection bin ready for the Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club's Diaper Drive. The club is asking the public to drop off donated diapers, size 4, 5 and 6 and baby wipes to the Y. Rotary will deliver them to the Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard for needy parents.

Courtesy photo by David Miles.

## Scantic YMCA ready to accept diapers and wipes

WILBRAHAM — The Rotary Club of Wilbraham-Hampden has set up a second drop-off point at the Scantic Valley YMCA in Post Office Park for the public to donate diapers as part of their Diaper Drive in Wilbraham and Hampden.

The drive is a local project to alleviate a diaper shortage among low-income families during the COVID-19 pandemic in local towns and parts of Springfield served by the Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard.

Last week the club put a collection container on the busy floor of Rice's Fruit Farm store. This week YMCA Executive Director Debbie Kelder welcomed the diaper bin into the lobby of the YMCA.

The project is part of an effort to deliver disposable diapers and baby wipes to the Survival Center through a diaper drive which includes direct purchase of disposable diapers by the club and now

by the public. The highest demand for diapers is in the 4, 5 and 6 size range.

The diaper drive was started with Rotary Club members who are now asking people in Wilbraham and Hampden to help.

"Virtually all childcare/daycare facilities (and private sitters for that matter) require parents to supply disposable diapers for their pre-potty-trained children. Diapers and baby wipes are very expensive and often low-income parents need to make tough choices between spending their limited resources on rent, food, transportation or diapers," explained Mary Cassidy, executive director of the Survival Center.

For details about diaper needs, call Mary Cassidy at 413-543-3930. For more information about the Rotary Club call Brad Sperry at 413-537-4171.

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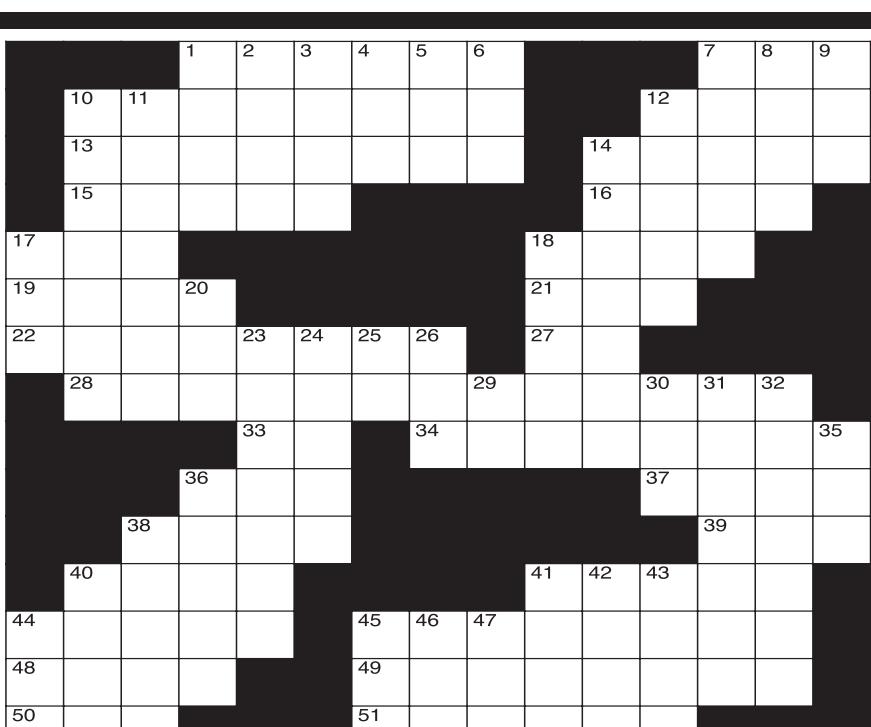
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- Heals
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- Twitch
- Plant of the mint family
- Soon
- Witch
- Long, mournful complaint
- Killer clown film
- Keeps us occupied
- Influential
- Formation of concepts
- Insecticide
- Swiss river
- Actress Lucy
- Unit of g-force
- Can repel attackers
- Essential oil used as perfume
- Cut into small pieces
- Mexican agricultural worker
- Best pitchers
- Benign tumors
- Backbone
- Brooklyn hoopster
- Intervened
- Make a map of
- Cain and \_\_
- Dried-up
- Corporate exec (abbr.)
- Trading floor hand gesture
- Strongly alkaline solution
- Can repel attackers
- Oil used as perfume
- Cut into small pieces
- Mexican agricultural worker
- Best pitchers
- Benign tumors
- Backbone
- Brooklyn hoopster
- Intervened
- Make a map of
- Indicates position
- Chinese surname
- Potato state
- When you think you'll get there
- Falls
- Bullfighters
- Born of
- Small fishes
- Father of chemical warfare
- Waste matter
- Skin disease
- Scandinavian mythical god
- and haws
- Villain
- Tell on
- Difficulty
- Not old

## MassDOT highlights October as Distracted Driving Awareness Month

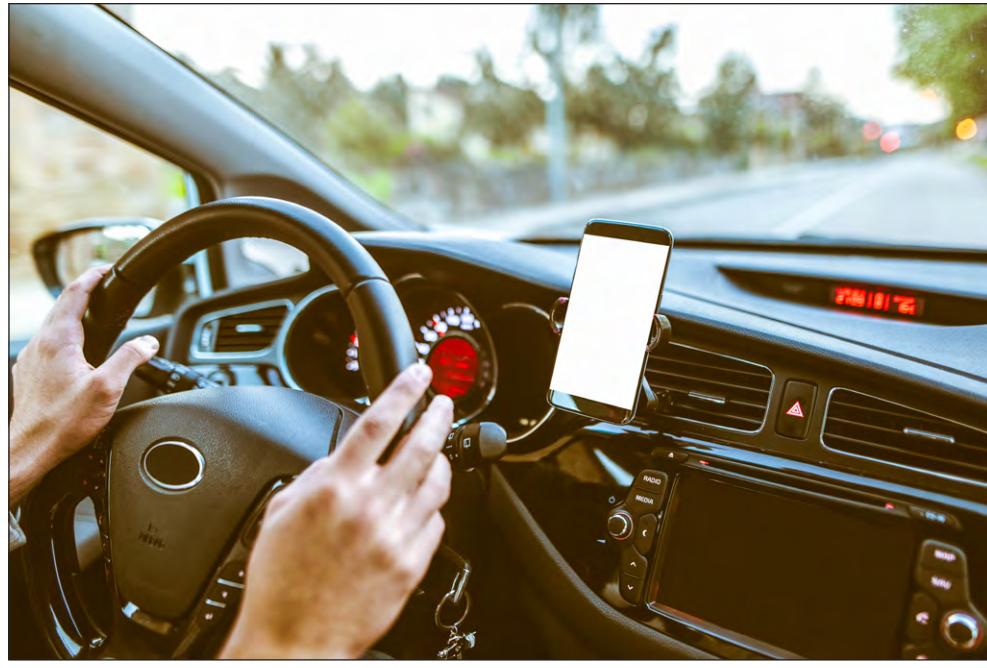
BOSTON — The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is highlighting October as Distracted Driving Awareness Month and the importance of the "hands-free" law, signed by Gov. Charlie Baker, which took effect on Feb. 23. Since the hand-free law took effect, 22,417 motor vehicle citations, including warnings, have been issued to drivers in Massachusetts.

The "hands-free" law stipulates that operators of motor vehicles cannot use an electronic device unless the device is being used in hands-free mode. Operators cannot read or view text, images, or videos unless what is being viewed is helping with navigation, and the device is mounted in an appropriate location. Motorists also cannot make phone calls unless they can do so without holding their phones, by utilizing technology such as Bluetooth. The law also requires law enforcement officers to report data on violations that will be shared with the public. The use of phones and all electronic devices, including phones in hands-free mode, remains illegal for drivers under the age of 18.

"Driving safely should be the most important responsibility for anyone who gets behind the wheel," said Secretary Tom Turco of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. "That means driving sober, putting away mobile devices, and keeping our eyes on the road. Distracted Driving Awareness Month is a time to pause and reflect on the importance of giving roadway safety our full attention."

"Distracted Driving Awareness Month is meant to be a reminder that even the smallest distraction in a vehicle can have deadly consequences," said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Jamey Tesler. "Simply put, drivers need to be just driving. We cannot emphasize it enough - drive sober, drive hands-free, drive with your eyes on the road, and do not exceed the posted speed limit."

MassDOT data shows that during the first several months of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an approximately 65 to 75% drop in weekday volume on Metropolitan Highway System (MHS) and toll roadways and a 45 to 50% drop on other state roadways where traffic counts are taken. As of last week, statewide daily traffic volumes



were on average about 13% lower than the corresponding 2019 traffic volumes for the same period. To better understand traffic volume data statewide, please visit MassDOT's Mobility Dashboard at: https://mobility-massdot.hub.arcgis.com/.

Traffic safety experts believe driver inattention is a contributing factor in the increase of crashes. Based on the data from MassDOT's IMPACT Dashboard, there is a total of 207 fatalities from March to September 2020 compared to 202 fatalities from the same time frame in 2019 — a concerning trend of increased fatalities when traffic volumes are down.

Punishment for violating the hands-free law includes a \$100 fine for a first offense, a \$250 fine for a second offense, and a \$500 fine for a third or subsequent offense. Operators who commit a second or subsequent offense are required to complete an educational program focused on distracted driving prevention. A third or subsequent offense will count as a surchargeable incident.

The Registry of Motor Vehicles reports that 22,417 motor vehicle citations have been issued since the law became effective on February 23, 2020. This includes warnings

and 2,885 fineable first offense citations and 18 second offense citations that triggered the educational program requirements.

Under the new law, vehicles without built-in GPS, Apple Car Play, or Android Audio must be equipped with a phone mount on the dash or windshield for GPS navigation.

For motorists not using hands-free technology, the EOPSS Office of Grants and Research offers these additional tips:

Before driving, please turn your phone off and put it out of reach.

Set your mobile phone to "Do Not Disturb While Driving" mode.

Let your friends and family know that you'll be driving and can't take their calls or texts.

If you have to make a call or send a text, pull over.

Watch for pedestrians and bicyclists — especially at night.

Remember to buckle up! Seatbelts are your best defense against a distracted driver.

For more information about the hands-free law visit https://www.mass.gov/service-details/hands-free-law.

## Springfield Parade of the Big Balloons canceled

SPRINGFIELD — The Spirit of Springfield has announced that the Parade of the Big Balloons will take a pause this holiday season. The traditional procession held the day after Thanksgiving will not be held due to COVID-19 and current restrictions on parades.

"We are saddened to see another tradition be canceled," said Judy Matt, Spirit of Springfield President. "But it is for the safety

and health of our community. We do not want to risk further spread of coronavirus to the audience, participants and volunteers."

The Parade of the Big Balloons has been a long-time Springfield tradition. Springfield's own Cat in the Hat balloon joined the procession in 1991 when the Spirit of Springfield took over the responsibilities of the parade. Tower Square has sponsored the parade since 1995.

"It has

been a joy to support the Spirit of Springfield and the Parade of the Big Balloons, and then open our doors for our Holiday Open House," said Fred Christensen, Tower Square General Manager. "These are extraordinary times, and we must take every precaution to keep our community healthy."

This year, the Spirit of Springfield was forced to cancel the World's Largest Pancake Breakfast, Star Spangled Springfield and the City of Bright Nights

Ball. Springfield's September 11th Ceremony was held with attendance limited to 50 people. The Spirit of Springfield Golf Classic was postponed twice, but held on Friday, Sept. 25. Bright Nights at Forest Park, as just announced, will be held with social distancing protocols in place.

For 30 years, the Spirit of Springfield has been bringing the community together in celebration.

## Baystate Health announces changes in visitor guidelines

SPRINGFIELD — Baystate Health is announcing, now in effect, additional changes to inpatient and outpatient visitor guidelines previously announced in June as the state began its reopening process.

Visitation hours continue to be daily from noon to 8 p.m.

Changes to the visitation policy at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield include:

No visitors under the age of 18-years-old are allowed in the hospital, unless the

visitor is a child or sibling of a patient.

COVID-19 negative patients are allowed one visitor per patient at a time with the following new exceptions:

OB patients who are in labor and postpartum: Two visitors

Hospice, end-of-life patients or for life-changing diagnosis: up to two visitors and one clergy member

COVID-19 negative patients located on care units which have COVID-19 positive/persons under investigation (PUI) patients: One visitor

Changes to the visitation policy at Baystate Children's Hospital in Springfield include:

COVID-19 negative patients are allowed up to two parents/guardians at a time

While no visitors are allowed in the Baystate Medical Center ED, the Pediatric Emergency Department is allowing two parents at a time unless COVID positive or PUI (person under investigation) patient.

Changes to the visitation policy at Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer include:

One visitor allowed for patients in the Emergency Department

Changes to the visitation policy at Mary Lane Outpatient Center in Ware include:

One visitor allowed for patients in the Emergency Department

All visitation is at the discretion of Baystate Health.

For the latest information on visitor guidelines, visit baystatehealth.org/visitors.

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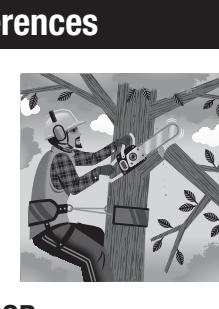
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## Dakin's community spay/neuter clinic reopens to offer surgery

**SPRINGFIELD** — Following a COVID-influenced shutdown, Dakin Humane Society's Community Spay/Neuter Clinic has reopened to offer high quality, affordable surgery for dogs, cats and rabbits.

There were already more than 450 appointments booked at the Clinic when it closed on March 23 of this year. An online waitlist was created to give new clients an opportunity to be contacted when bookings could resume, and Dakin staff planned the reconfiguration of Clinic procedures to be COVID-compliant and allow for social distancing.

During the first two weeks of June, previously scheduled spay/neuter surgeries for cats and dogs began, with new bookings for cats and dogs taking place in July. In August, rabbit spay/neuter surgeries resumed as well.

"At the beginning of the pandemic, we opted to close the Spay/Neuter Clinic to keep everyone safe and to preserve medical supplies that might have been needed for human health care," said Dakin's Executive Director Carmine DiCenso. "Now we have rebounded, but we know that some veterinary practices in the Pioneer Valley currently have lengthy wait times for clients looking for spay/neuter surgery for their pets. Our clinic is modeled after the nationally recognized ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance program, which is a leader in high quality, high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter. Plus, we are able to keep our fees affordable thanks to grants and support from the public."



Courtesy photo  
Members of Dakin Humane Society's Community Spay/Neuter Clinic staff tend to a post-op patient. From left are Dr. Sherri Therrien, Clinic Manager Lynn Sassi and Veterinary Technician Amber Lippman.

Dakin's Community Spay/Neuter Clinic is open Tuesday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and is located at 171 Union St. in Springfield. The fee for cat surgery is \$125 and includes a pre-surgery examination, pain medication and vaccines. Dog surgery fees range from \$225-\$325 (based on the animal's age and weight) and include pre-surgery examination and pain medication. Rabbit surgery is \$325, which includes pain medication to be given at home. Discounted fees are available to those receiving state or federal government assistance. Appointments can be booked online at <https://www.dakinhumane.org/veterinary-services.html> and the clinic can be reached by emailing [spay@dakinhumane.org](mailto:spay@dakinhumane.org).

Other Dakin programs that are serving the public while remaining COVID-compliant include the Curbside Vaccine Clinics and Pet Food Aid Program. The demand for these services, especially the Pet

Food Aid Program, has increased significantly during the pandemic. According to Director of Development and Marketing Stacey Price, "We're seeing what the community needs, and we are responding so we can help keep pets where they belong, with their people."

Dakin Humane Society delivers effective, innovative services that improve the lives of animals in need and the people who care about them. The organization shelters, treats and fosters more than 20,000 animals each year and has performed more than 95,000 spay/neuter surgeries since 2009, making it one of New England's largest spay/neuter providers. Dakin is a local nonprofit organization that relies solely on contributions from individuals and businesses that care about animals to bring its services to the community. For more information, visit [www.dakinhumane.org](http://www.dakinhumane.org).

## Pioneer Valley Planning advises public to be septic smart

**REGION** — If your household relies on a septic system for disposal of sanitary sewage, September is a great time to make sure all is properly functioning.

Septic systems are typically designed to treat wastewater from your home before it filters into the soil and replenishes the groundwater that feeds local lakes and rivers, and in many cases, drinking water supply wells. So proper function is not only important to avoiding major problems in your household, but also to ensuring clean drinking water and ensuring fishable-swimmable rivers and lakes.

Members of the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee, a regional coalition of 19 municipalities plus UMass Amherst, encourage all septic system owners to take the following five steps recommended by MassDEP:

Inspect your system at least once every three years. A reputable, permitted septic hauler can advise you on the frequency of pumping needed for your partic-

ular household. For homes with garbage disposals, pumping once a year is recommended.

Limit the use of your kitchen sink garbage disposal and flush only human waste down your toilets. This will keep your system working optimally and reduce the overall frequency of maintenance.

Properly dispose of hazardous or toxic substances, such as medicines, household chemicals, solvents, etc. These substances are not treated by your septic system and contaminate groundwater.

Avoid driving over, parking on, or doing construction over your system and tank as this can impact proper function of your system.

Conserve water to reduce the amount of liquid your system has to process, and thereby extend its lifespan.

Pumping a septic tank is critical to ensuring that the system properly treats waste. Accumulated solids at the bottom of a tank can prevent the system from doing its job. If a septic system is

not in good working order, it can also flood and cause sewage back-up into yards or homes.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Principal Environmental Planner Patty Gambarini, who facilitates the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee notes, "While you can imagine how harmful raw sewage could be to your property, it is also important to note the harm a faulty septic system can cause to drinking water and local waterways."

More information on maintaining septic systems is available at the state website, <https://www.mass.gov/guides/caring-for-your-septic-system>, or the Think Blue Connecticut River website, <https://thinkblueconnecticutriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/MaintainingSeptic-Updated-for-PV.pdf>

For more information contact Pat Beaupre, [pbeaudry@pvpc.org](mailto:pbeaudry@pvpc.org) or 413-210-4658

## Drive-up flu clinics coming to HCC

**HOLYOKE** — Holyoke Community College will serve as a host site for four drive-up flu vaccine clinics during the next few weeks.

The clinics, on Tuesday, Oct. 20, Friday, Oct. 23, Tuesday, Nov. 3, and Friday, Nov. 6, are being provided by the Holyoke Board of Health and CVS Pharmacy, and are open to the general public.

All the clinics run from 8 to 11 a.m. and will be held in Parking Lot M next to HCC's Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation on the main campus at 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, the same location where free COVID-19 testing is underway until Oct. 31.

The flu vaccines are free with most insurance, including MassHealth. Pre-registration is not required but highly recommended to ensure sufficient supply.

These are drive-up clinics, so there is no need to exit your vehicle.



Free face masks will also be distributed on site.

Appointments can be scheduled for 20-minute time slots by following the links on the HCC

# Drive Walk to Remember A Candlelight Vigil



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**For More info go to:  
the Ludlow CARES Coalition FB page   
[www.ludlowcarescoalition.org](http://www.ludlowcarescoalition.org)**



## UMass Theater announces a slate of digital projects for Fall 2020

This semester, UMass Theater's venue is a space online instead of a stage, fusing theatrical creativity with modern technology to safely reach the farthest corners of the local community.

All events are free of charge (although UMass Theater gratefully accepts donations from those who are able to give).

When The Soul Looks Out: Selections from Dr. Yusef Lateef's Creative Writing

Curated and directed by Priscilla María Page

Dr. Yusuf Lateef is a towering figure in jazz, a deeply spiritual and philosophical man whose recordings and teachings have left a lasting imprint in the world of music. We are proud to be a part of the Centennial Celebration of Yusef Lateef, coordinated by Glenn Siegel as part of the Magic Triangle Series out of the UMass Fine Arts Center. To honor Dr. Lateef's legacy, Dr. Page has curated a filmed presentation of his writings, *Midnight in the Garden of Love, Spheres, and Another Avenue*, performed by Five College and UMass Theater alumni, faculty, and students with guest artists Miles Griffith, Mary LaRose, and Fay Victor.

Presented by the UMass Fine Arts Center's Magic Triangle Series and UMass Theater.

When the Soul Looks Out will premiere online on Oct. 9 and will remain accessible to viewers afterward. Visit the Fine Arts Center Box Office for information on this curated reading, as well as the other presentations that are part of Dr. Lateef's Centennial Celebration.

COVEN-19, or, Magicks for Unprecedented Times

Produced by Maegan Clearwood, Percival Hornak, and Helen Rahman

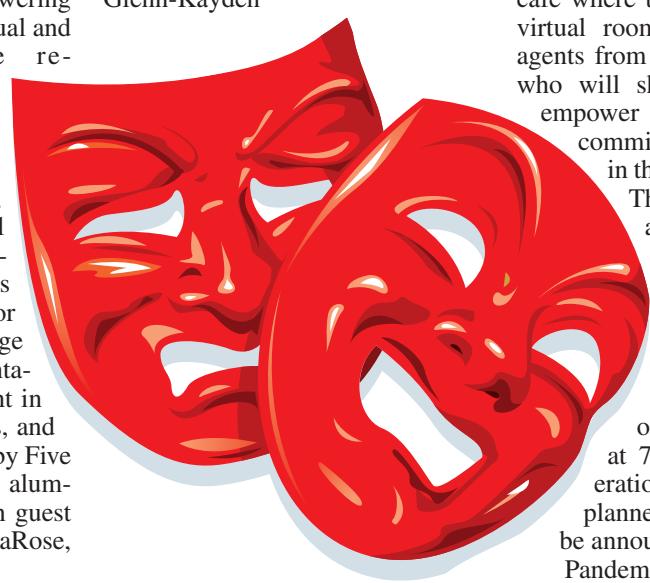
2020 is on fire, and more than ever, we are being called upon to own our individual and collective powers, make meaning out of utter chaos, and manifest tangible, seismic change. In late October, when the veil between our world

and the other is at its very thinnest, our Coven will perform a live, remote ritual for the community that addresses the grief and pain we are all experiencing - but also the potential for transformation in these strange times. The time is ripe for magick-making: join us.

Presented live online Oct. 29 and 31 at 7:30 pm and Oct. 30 at Midnight.

Visionary Futures: Science Fiction Theatre for Social Justice Movements

Conceived and directed by Josh Glenn-Kayden



This project takes its inspiration from the Octavia's Brood anthology, which explores the connections between radical speculative fiction and movements for social change.

We are commissioning three professional playwrights to each write a 30-minute play of visionary fiction that confronts urgent issues of our time. Each writer will be paired with an activist whose work intersects with the play's subject matter. These writer/activist teams will collaborate to create work that is visionary in its approach while also grounded in contemporary activist thought.

The plays, written to be performed digitally, will be in conversation with each other and will present three different visions of future worlds. Join us for staged readings

of excerpts in the fall, with full productions during the spring semester.

Presented live online: Play 1 on Nov. 12 at 7:30; Play 2 on Nov. 15 at 7:30; Play 3 on Nov. 19 at 7:30 pm, play titles to be announced.

Café Subterraine

Devised and directed by Rudy Ramirez, with coordinator Yao Chen

Immersive theater works by placing its audience amid the action; we're taking this concept remote. Café Subterraine invites audience members to gather in a digital café where they'll journey through virtual rooms to meet resistance agents from across time and space who will share their stories and empower audience members to commit small acts of change in their home communities.

The idea: to give comfort and hope that the world can emerge from hardship to a better place, and that the struggle can feel like celebration.

Presented live online: Dec. 1, 2 & 3 at 7:30 p.m. A second iteration of this production is planned for spring, dates to be announced.

Pandemic Podcast

Conceived and produced by Bianca Dillard

What are the stories behind the staggering numbers? Theater is about storytelling, and this podcast will draw on theater to tell the story of this pandemic from a multiplicity of perspectives, interviewing experts and folks with first-hand experience of the disease, whom we might not otherwise encounter in our isolation. Together, a team of interviewers, writers and sound design students and faculty mentors will look at topics such as how the pandemic is disproportionately adversely affecting populations of color; how mask wearing has become a polarizing political issue; and what healthcare workers are experiencing.

Look for this series to be posted online this winter.

## STCC will remain online with mix of low-density labs this spring

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield Technical Community College this spring semester will continue to offer online classes with a combination of on-campus, low-density labs for its health and STEM programs.

In an email to the campus community on Oct. 7, STCC President John B. Cook said operations in the spring semester will mirror the plan made for the fall in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cook and his administration consulted with faculty in making the decision. Classes in the School of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies will be fully online.

"We look forward to one day being back on campus full time, but we need to safeguard our students, faculty and staff," Cook said. "The pandemic has created an unpredictable environment that prompted extensive and thoughtful discussions. After much consideration, we felt a mix of online classes and low-density labs for our technical and health programs, using strict social distancing protocols, would be the best approach for the spring."

STCC faculty members are currently working with their deans in the online development program to prepare classes for spring delivery, said Vice President of Academic Affairs Geraldine de Berly.

"I'm impressed with the transition from on-ground to online classes this fall," de Berly said. "I applaud our faculty who showed tenacity as they went through training this past summer to develop their fall classes. They are continuing this fall in developing spring online courses, showing a true dedication and commitment to serving our students during a difficult period."

As the only technical community college in Massachusetts, STCC offers unique programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) that utilizes labs and specialized equipment and offer rewarding in-person experiences between faculty

and students, de Berly said.

"We have no intention to convert to an online-only institution," de Berly said. "STCC prides itself on providing a hands-on educational experience that ranges from CNC labs for manufacturing programs to our patient simulation center used by students in health programs."

STCC offers affordable range of academic programs and services

STCC offers a total of 76 degree and certificate programs that provide an affordable pathway to careers in fields that include technology, manufacturing, healthcare and public service. Students also find opportunities in multiple bachelor's degree transfer options.

STCC's academic divisions include:

- The School of Health and Patient Simulation: Programs in the school include nursing, dental, respiratory, medical imaging, rehabilitation studies and medical laboratory technician.

- The School of STEM: Programs fields of study such as engineering transfer, computer and IT security, mechanical engineering technology, energy systems, optics and photonics, electrical engineering technology/robotics, architecture building technology, graphic design, and digital media.

- The School of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies: Two-year programs include business transfer, criminal justice, early childhood education, urban studies, applied psychology, social work and more.

STCC will also continue to offer student services remotely. Students, staff, faculty and the general public can visit dustcover to use the ChatNow! function, which offers convenient access to the following:

- Admissions
- Academic Advising and Transfer Center
- Health and Wellness Center
- Student Financial Services
- IT HelpDesk
- Library

In addition, STCC offers online tutoring and resources provided through the Center for Access Services. Students facing food insecurity can turn to CAS for help.

Protocols for using the STCC campus

Due to the risks posed by the pandemic, STCC this spring will continue to restrict campus access to students and faculty scheduled for low-density labs and workforce development classes, STCC employees, community partners and contractors and vendors who have received prior approval. Visit the STCC website to read FAQs about the repopulation plan.

STCC's comprehensive plan to ensure safety and minimize the risk of spreading the coronavirus includes but is not limited to the following:

- Free and voluntary COVID-19 testing for students, faculty and staff who are on campus

- Strict protocol for arriving on campus, including check-in stations where temperature-taking scanners are used

- Increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting

- Enhanced filtration for HVAC systems

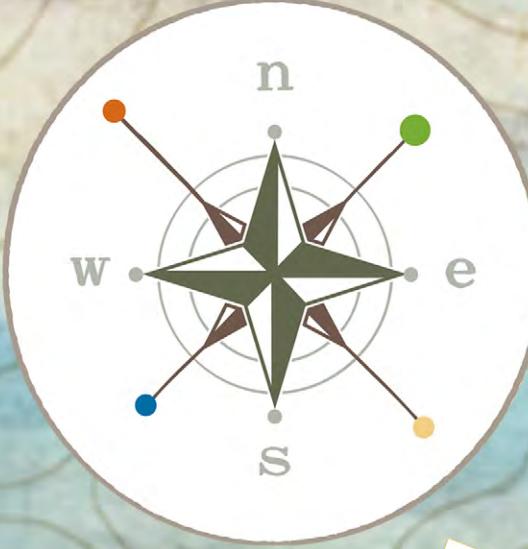
- Wearing of masks and adhering to social distancing

Interested in applying to STCC? Visit [dustcover](#) or call Admissions at 413-755-3333.

STCC, the commonwealth's only technical community college, continues the pioneering legacy of the Springfield Armory with comprehensive and technical education in manufacturing, STEM, healthcare, business, social services, and the liberal arts. Founded in 1967, the college – a designated Hispanic Serving Institution – seeks to close achievement gaps among students who traditionally face societal barriers. STCC supports students as they transform their lives through intellectual, cultural, and economic engagement while becoming thoughtful, committed and socially responsible graduates.

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## SOCCER



Madison Bonneau passes ahead of a defender's pressure.



Ciara Monaghan tries to fake out the Ware defender.

## Monson pulls away from Ware



Aniah Marie tries to block a long pass.



Isabel Bailey makes the save.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Emilia Finnegan possesses the ball under pressure.

WARE — Last Monday afternoon, Monson and Ware met in the season openers for both teams. Ware scored early, but Monson pulled away with three goals in the second quarter and won 7-1. Tennessee Murphy scored four times while Emilia Finnegan had two goals. Kendall Bodak made two saves.

## SOCCER

## Panthers, Mustangs renew rivalry with tie

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

MONSON — The Palmer boys soccer team had outscored archrival Monson 12-2 in the previous two meetings at Coach Robert E. Moriarty Soccer Field. Palmer almost added another road victory against Monson last Friday afternoon.

With a little more than 10 minutes remaining in regulation, the Panthers held a 1-0 advantage. The Mustangs managed to score the game-tying goal on a penalty kick and the contest ended in a 1-1 draw.

"It was definitely tough seeing Monson tie the score on a penalty kick late in the game," said Palmer first-year head coach Troy Remillard. "I thought both teams played very well today. It has always been a big rivalry game between the two schools."

Remillard, who graduated from Palmer High School in 2014, finished his outstanding high school soccer career with 57 goals and 23 assists for a total of 80 points. Remillard also played college soccer at Western New England and he was selected as a United Soccer Coaches Third Team All-American as a senior. His younger brother, Matt, is currently a member of the WNE soccer team.

Two years ago, Troy's older brother, Jon, guided the Panthers to a 4-0 road win over the Mustangs on a rainy afternoon at Moriarty Soccer Field. The weather was also miserable during last year's game played in Monson. The Panthers scored six goals in the opening half en route to an 8-2 victory in that contest.

The Mustangs did celebrate a 2-0 victory over the Panthers in a night game played at Legion Field in Palmer last year.

Both teams began the delayed 2020 regular season by defeating Ware and Pathfinder.

"I'm satisfied with the tie because the kids are actually getting to play soccer right now," said second-year Monson head coach Peter

Beaupre. "We're a young team and I just want my players to keep improving in every game that we play this season. It was a very good game today."

The Mustangs, who trailed 2-1 against Pathfinder at halftime, also trailed against Palmer at the break.

The home team had a golden opportunity to take a 1-0 lead on an indirect kick five minutes into the first quarter. The play began with freshman Colin Beaupre tapping the ball back to senior Scottie Watson, who fired a line-drive shot that was ticketed towards the right corner of the net. However, the ball was flicked away by a Palmer defender keeping the contest scoreless.

The Panthers also had a couple of scoring chances during the first twenty minutes. A shot attempt taken by senior Brandyn Costa was saved by Monson junior goalkeeper Colby Duggan. Another shot by sophomore Austin Degnan sailed high over the crossbar. Austin's father, Eric, is the longtime girls' varsity soccer coach at Monson High School.

With 11:22 remaining in the second quarter, Degnan delivered a pass to Costa, who fired a low breakaway shot into the back of the net. It was Costa's fourth goal of the season, as he recorded a hat-trick in a 4-1 home win versus Ware three days earlier.

"That was a big goal by Brandyn," Remillard said. "He used his speed and was able to finish the play with a low shot."

Costa also scored a goal in last year's win at Monson.

In the final seconds of the opening half, a save by Palmer junior goalkeeper Gabe Messier kept the score 1-0.

Messier received plenty of support from his defense led by sophomore Evan Hershowitz, sophomore Nathan Bigda, senior Kristian Kotowski, and senior Ryan DeSantis.

Monson began the second half

BOYS | page 12

## SOCCER

## Palmer shuts out Pioneers



Miyah Mega moves up the right sideline.



Maddie Theriault plays the short corner kick.



Mia Murray heads up the sideline after taking possession of the ball.



A Pathfinder midfield player sends a pass through the middle.



A pair of opponents vie for the loose ball.



Jylian Auger makes the save for the Pioneers.



Pathfinder attempts to move the ball upfield after clearing out of its own end.

PALMER — The Palmer High School girls soccer team shut out rival Pathfinder last Monday after-

noon in the season opener for both teams. Maddie Theriault scored two goals. Miyah Mega, Mia Murray,

Olivia Coughlin, Caitlin Lebel, and Jillian Lombardi also scored single goals for the Panthers.

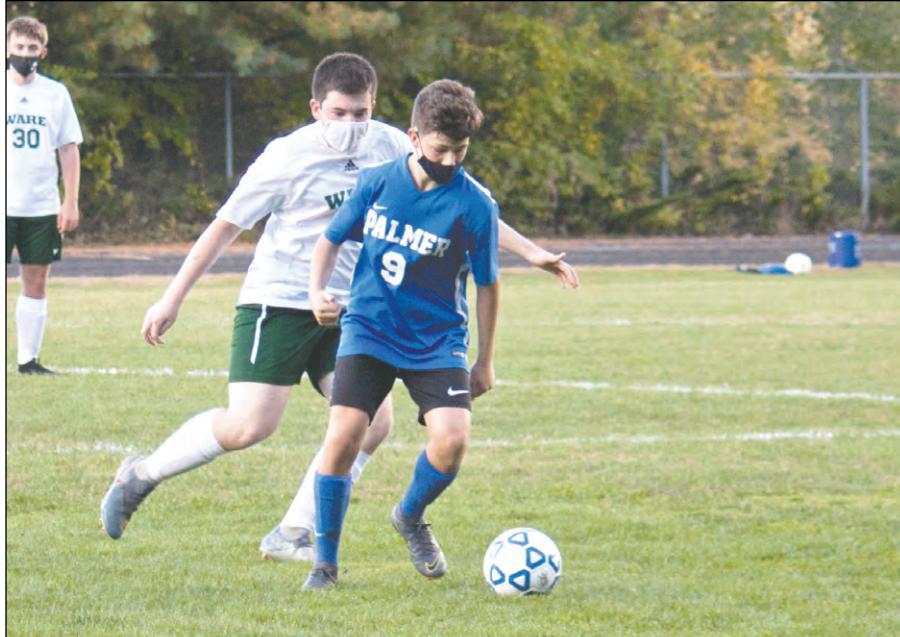
# Palmer defeats Ware



Brandy Costa starts to move up the field.



Kristian Kotowski tries to progress through midfield.



Austin Degnan tries to work with pressure coming on.



Ryan DeSantis makes the quick touch to keep the ball moving.

PALMER – Last Tuesday afternoon, Brandy Costa put up a hat trick and Palmer defeated Ware 4-1 in Hampshire league action. Byron Peabody also scored while Gabe Messier made three saves in the win for Palmer, now 2-0-1.



Byron Peabody attempts to get around the Ware goalie and take a shot.

Photos by Deanna Sloat

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# Turleysports

*Athlete of the Week*

## Tennessee Murphy

Monson High School

In her return to action, the eighth grader scored four times in a win over Monson last Monday afternoon.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to [gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com).

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## Help feature your student-athletes

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

photographs to share, we definitely want to hear from you.

If you don't see one of our photographers at a game, please feel free to send your own action photos of games in order to bolster our coverage. If you are interested in regularly submitted photos, please do contact us.

We continue to ask for help on this season in order to bring the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages with names and color.

We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is where you all come in.

We have a limited number of staff to start the school year due to the pandemic, and while we strive to get to as many games as possible, we cannot get to everywhere.

If you are a parent, coach, or even player, and you have information or

otherwise, we would love to hear from anyone who reports scores, details, and any milestones that occur during this unprecedented season. Please be sure the information you provide us is accurate and check with coaches, if necessary, before submitting.

We also encourage all coaches to submit their results and details as much as possible. Send any and all information and photos for inclusion to [sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com).

## Turley Sports joins Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

### BOYS | from page 11

with a couple of direct kicks by senior Gabe Zippin. His first attempt went over the crossbar. The second one was punched away by Messier.

Late in the third quarter, Messier made a diving save on a laser shot by Watson keeping his shutout bid intact.

Early in the fourth quarter, the Panthers had a chance to take a 2-0 lead on another shot by Costa, but Monson senior Cole Johnson, who is a starting defender, managed to clear the ball away before it crossed over the goal-line.

"That was a big time play by Cole Johnson because it kept the score 1-0," coach Beaupre said. "Our defense played stellar today."

The other members of the Mustangs defensive unit are senior Luke Hedspeth, sophomore Cole Stevens, and Zippin.

Monson was rewarded a penalty kick with 11:19 left in the game following a handball in the box.

Watson took the kick and he lined a shot into the upper right corner of the net tying the score at 1-1.

The final ten minutes of the match was intense, but the score on the scoreboard did not change.

The two rivals are scheduled to meet again this season at Duke Field, which is located behind Palmer High School, on November 12. Palmer isn't scheduled to play any home games under the lights at Legion Field this year.



## ENDURE Act would provide relief to small businesses, for workers' support, infrastructure investments

BOSTON — The Massachusetts State Senate passed a sweeping economic recovery and development bill on Wednesday that provides much-needed support to businesses, invests in infrastructure, and creates new jobs in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

An Act to encourage new development and usher in a recovering economy (ENDURE Act) includes provisions for small business competitive grant programs, housing production, local economic development projects, capital funding for vocational schools and community colleges, and investments in infrastructure. It also provides support for the tourism and cultural sectors and restaurant industry. Further, to promote equity and protect borrowers and workers across the commonwealth, the ENDURE Act establishes a Future of Work Commission and creates a Student Loan Bill of Rights.

"This ENDURE Act passed today includes several measures that will bolster the ability of our communities to continue to make improvements and adapt to the new challenges they face and those they may meet in the future," said State Sen. Anne Gobi, D-Spencer. "I am grateful for the work of my colleagues in the funding areas that have been prioritized here, and thankful that we moved to adopt

the amendments related to crumbling foundations, the Veterans and Warriors Agriculture Program, and the Mill Revitalization Task Force. While there is still work to be done in these areas, this represents a strong step towards remediation in several areas of the state that are in need of assistance."

"The ENDURE Act will provide a much-needed boost to our economy as it recovers from the dire effects of COVID-19," stated State Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "In crafting this bill, the Senate recognized the need to be bold when addressing the challenges facing restaurant and small business owners, the clean energy sector, cultural attractions and other key sectors that keep our economy humming. I am particularly pleased this bill includes the long sought-after housing production reforms that the Senate has supported for years. I want to thank Senators Lesser, Rodrigues and my colleagues for their attention to this critical bill and for acting with urgency to move it forward in the legislative process."

The legislation also includes new protections for entrepreneurs by enforcing a ban on making bad faith assertions of patent infringement, a practice known as 'patent trolling.' Such claims often entangle new small businesses in costly lawsuits that hamper the companies'

productivity and sap their early seed-stage funds.

To invest in the commonwealth's infrastructure and stimulate economic activity, the ENDURE Act authorizes bonding for the following:

\$15 million for the site readiness program;

\$35 million for a Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation matching grant

program to community development financial institutions for small business loans and grants;

\$5 million for the Massachusetts Broadband Incentive Fund;

\$10 million for the expansion of the Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative (M2I2)

\$50 million for the Technology Research and Development and Innovation Fund;

\$20 million for rural community development and infrastructure grants;

\$20 million for a Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation small business grant program;

\$20 million for financial and capital assistance grants to restaurants impacted by the 2019 novel coronavirus;

\$10 million for grants to promote marketing and advertising for in-state cultural and tourist activities during the 2019 novel coronavirus reopening process;

\$40 million for a program to redevelop blighted buildings;

\$10 million for regional and community assistance planning grants;

\$28 million for an Employment Social Enterprise Capital Grant Program;

\$50 million for local economic development projects;

\$2 million for an urban agriculture grant program;

\$20 million for grants to support the reopening of cultural facilities impacted by the 2019 novel coronavirus;

\$25 million for transit-oriented housing developments;

\$10 million for climate-resilient affordable housing developments;

\$50 million for the neighborhood stabilization program;

\$5 million for Gateway Cities market rate housing pilot program;

\$15 million for vocational technical school expansion grants; and

\$15 million for community college high-demand workforce grants.

The ENDURE Act creates a robust commission to look at the 'Future of Work' and examine ways to ensure sustainable jobs, fair benefits and workplace safety standards for all workers in all industries.

It also gives greater protections to student loan borrowers in disputes with companies servicing their loans, requiring servicers to apply for licenses from the state, which the Commissioner of Banks could revoke if the servicer is engaged in abusive practices such as overcharging students or steering them into costlier repayment plans to make higher profits. Student loan servicers that break state licensing requirements or take advantage of students could be fined and forced to repay student borrowers under the bill.

Further, the ENDURE Act:

Addresses the critical need for housing by enabling municipalities through a simple majority

to address building opportunities through zoning reform;

Authorizes an additional 2,800 megawatts of offshore wind development;

Extends the state and local permits held by a real estate developer unable to proceed with the project due to COVID-19 disruptions for one year;

Allows farmer brewers and farmer distillers to sell, and provide samples of, their alcoholic beverages at agricultural events and farmers markets;

Extends protections for cranberry growers under c.61A out to 2023;

Mandates equitable opportunities in state contracts by expanding an affirmative marketing program that elevates hiring firms owned by women and people of color;

Reduces onerous and unnecessary regulations for hair braiders;

Excludes forgiven PPP loans from Massachusetts taxable income for the purposes of personal income taxes; and

Enables MassDevelopment to better deploy its resources and tools under the TDI program.

Gobi was able to successfully advocate for three amendments during the Senate session Thursday. This included an amendment funding the Massachusetts Veterans and Warrior to Agriculture Program, a program dedicated to enhancing the education, training and employment of veterans working or aspiring to work in the field of agriculture.

A second of Gobi's amendments targeted the crumbling foundation issue that is plaguing south-central Massachusetts, with thousands of homes potentially at risk of failure due to the presence of a rare mineral, pyrrhotite, in the foundation's concrete aggregate. Her amendment extends the radius of the foundation testing program from 20 to 50-miles from the impacted quarry, and directs all new and perspective quarries to test for the rare iron-sulfide before their aggregate may be able available for sale.

The third amendment successfully advocated for in the bill by Gobi authorized the development of an industrial mill building task force to study the re-development, rehabilitation and revitalization of industrial mill buildings in the commonwealth.

The final version of this bill will now be negotiated by the House and Senate before going to the governor's desk for his consideration.

## Girls on the Run Western Mass. launches fall season with several program options

NORTHAMPTON — Girls on the Run Western Mass. is launching its sixth fall season and begins next week. GOTR is a leader in delivering evidence-based, life skills curriculum to girls of all abilities.

Through more than 75 sites across the Western Mass. region has served more than 5,400 youth since it was founded in 2015. For the 2020-2021 school year, GOTR Western Mass. is offering a variety of programs to accommodate the changing and unpredictable school year due to the pandemic.

Registration for the season is open at [www.girlsontherunwesternmass.org](http://www.girlsontherunwesternmass.org).

"Our staff and coaches are ready to bring critical social-emotional programming Western Mass. girls at a time when they need it the most," said Alison Berman, Council Director. "We have adapted based on the recommendations of local health officials and decisions of local governments and school districts.

The 3 options that we are offering, in-person, hybrid and virtual make it possible for girls to stay active despite the pandemic. Our fluid model will work completely in-person, completely virtual or can seamlessly transition between the two as needed."

GOTR is offering in-person teams, hybrid teams (in-person and virtual), and teams that are 100% virtual. GOTR programming is being delivered as in the past, with enhanced safety measures including physical distancing modifications and smaller teams. Should sites close, the in-programs will be easily transitioned to a virtual model, with lessons that mirror the in-person program. This fluid programming model ensures that participants

will experience the social, emotional, and physical outcomes of the program while allowing local teams to adjust to changes in the school and community health guidelines throughout the season. All virtual teams are also available for families that would prefer that option. Virtual fall programming is delivered by trained coaches in a safe virtual space, with lessons that mirror the in-person Girls on the Run or Heart & Sole program. Virtual programming will include physical activity and social-emotional learning, providing girls with an opportunity to still build meaningful connections with their peers and caring adult role models.

This season GOTR WMA has partnered with many local recreation departments and the Hampshire Regional YMCA to provide in-person and hybrid programming. The Amherst LSSE, Northampton, South Hadley, Hadley, East Longmeadow and Wilbraham Recreation Departments are all new partners this season making it possible for Girls on the Run to be offered this fall.

Girls on the Run is looking for a few more volunteers for their fall season. Volunteer coaches will receive the training and materials required to provide girls a safe, trauma-sensitive space to learn valuable life lessons and be active. Coaches do not need to be runners.

Berman says, "Together, we will find a way to motivate girls to nurture their physical and emotional health, no matter the circumstances."

Registration is open now at [www.girlsontherunwesternma.org](http://www.girlsontherunwesternma.org). Financial assistance is available to all participants and no one is turned away for financial need.

## Special COVID-19 testing Oct. 14 to Oct. 29

SPRINGFIELD — In an effort to offer additional COVID-19 testing where needed in the community, Baystate Health is collaborating with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to expand COVID-19 testing in the region via the commonwealth's Stop the Spread program.

Expanded testing is being of-

fered beginning Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 298 Carew St. in Springfield and 164 High St. in Greenfield. Testing will occur on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. and continue until Thursday, Oct. 29.

An appointment for the test must be scheduled by calling 413-794-0012 only Monday through Friday, between 5 to 8 p.m.

Up to 150 appointments will be scheduled per site per day.

The events are part of the state's Stop the Spread program, where the commonwealth is launching strategic testing in communities across Massachusetts that have continued to see a higher number of residents testing positive for COVID-19.

The testing is offered at no cost and no physician referral is needed to be tested. Results will be available within 48 hours.

Free masks, a packet of 10 per family, will be handed out.

For more information on Baystate Health services, visit [www.baystate-health.org](http://www.baystate-health.org).

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## RAIL | from page 1

The rally was co-hosted by state Senators Eric P. Lesser and Anne M. Gobi, both longtime advocates of the rail plan.

## Train rally panelists

Also on the panel, which fielded some questions in real-time, were Linda Leduc, Karen Christensen, Ben Heckscher, Jessica Sizer, and Ben Hood. It streamed on Lesser's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

"We've got to get that Palmer stop," Lesser said. He made a point of explaining how each of the panelists is whole heartedly invested in the plan.

"Years back," he said, Lamotte, a former intern in Lesser's office tasked with taking a petition around, "dropped a humongous stack of signatures from young people" on a hearing table "while we were still trying to get the study through the legislature."

Convincing the Mass. Legislature to move forward after the public comment period ends is still a major hill to climb, the panelists said. But they believe the public is on their side.

"This is awesome," Gobi said.

"No one [among the general public] is lacking in enthusiasm. It's good for everybody. This isn't just a Palmer issue. It's for the whole region to revitalize. All we're asking for is a little equity here. Look what it can do not just for our region, but for the entire state. That's the message, and that's the message we have to keep pushing forward with those who have been working on the ground on this," she said.

"Ware is a strong support base for us," Ben Hood, co-founder of Citizens for a Palmer Rail Stop, said. "It takes advocacy at all levels."

He stressed that expanding rail lines should not be considered some new, radical idea.

"It's about stitching parts of our state together, with different ways to move around the state. If you look to other countries or different parts of [the U.S.] are doing, what we're trying to create is not something unreliable new that we should not do it. We're trying to do what others have done."

Heckscher expressed his group's frustration with the Mass. Department of Transportation, which he said makes flimsy excuses for not embracing the plan.

"They don't have a 'can-do' attitude. They have a 'can't-do' attitude," he said.

"How do we move this forward as a long-term project?" Heckscher asked rhetorically.

"Success breeds success," Gobi said.

## Economic boon

Palmer Town Planner Linda Leduc, a member of the East-West Rail Advisory Committee, thanked Lesser and Gobi for their work on

in was having a stop here in Palmer that would serve them and connect Boston and Amherst through Palmer. And it's not as if they don't get off that train. We get them right here in Palmer, and we think there will be a big boost to our downtown having that traffic there."

Palmer Town Councilwoman Jessica Sizer has no problem envisioning it.

"As a lifelong resident of Palmer and the daughter of a railroad engineer, I can really see the benefit of making this form of transportation accessible to as many people as possible. But I also come at it as a [graduate] of UMass Amherst and while I was there there were so many students who spoke out about the need for rail and while they might not know Palmer so well, I was able to bring Palmer into the conversation and say 'hey, I know you want that internship in Boston and UMass just opened that campus near Boston. How great would it be if you could jump on a train and get to that area? A lot of people in Amherst don't have cars because they come from all over the world to go to school in Western Mass. and they don't necessarily have their own form of transportation."

Sizer pointed out that a bus line already runs from the UMass area to near where a Palmer rail station would be built.

"So I think Palmer is in a really unique position to be an access point for the 'five-college' area," she said.

Stitching state together

Ben Heckscher of the advocacy group Trains in the Valley, said "It takes advocacy at all levels."

He stressed that expanding rail lines should not be considered some new, radical idea.

"It's about stitching parts of our state together, with different ways to move around the state. If you look to other countries or different parts of [the U.S.] are doing, what we're trying to create is not something unreliable new that we should not do it. We're trying to do what others have done."

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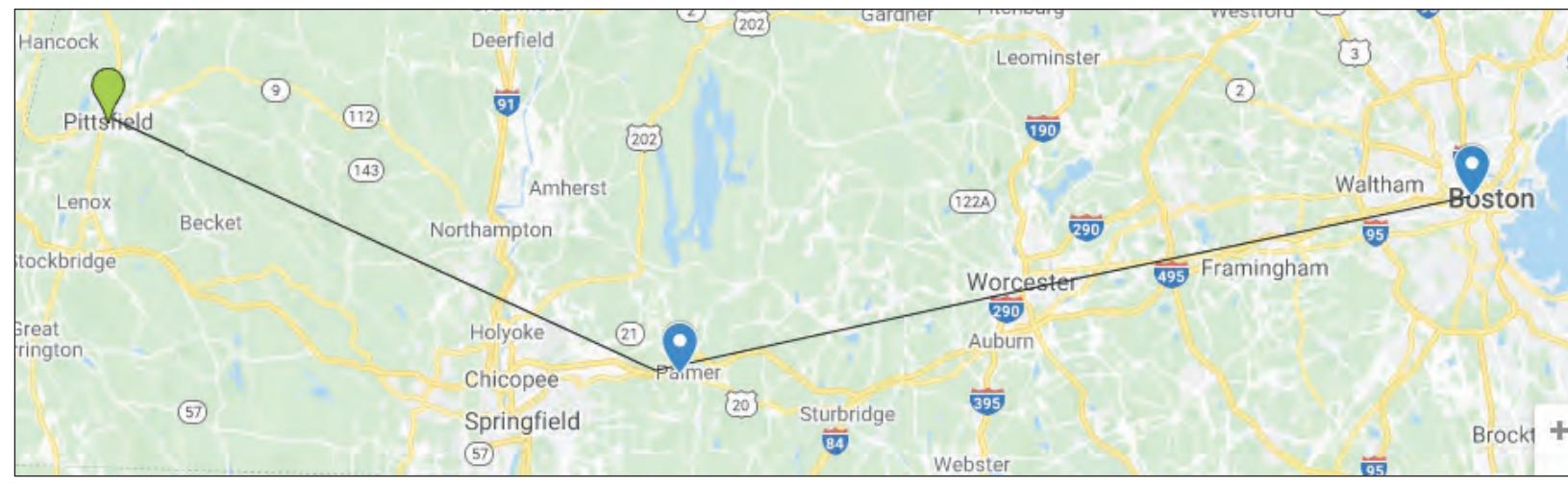
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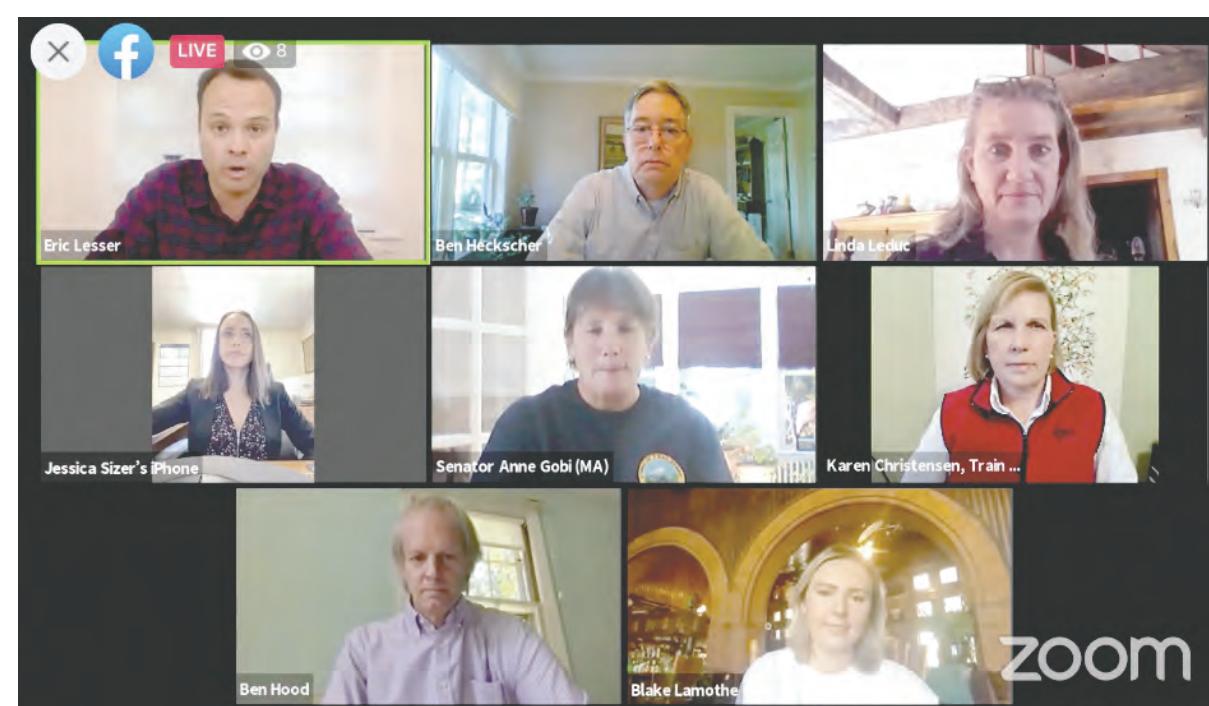
## Economic boon

Palmer Town Planner Linda Leduc, a member of the East-West Rail Advisory Committee, thanked Lesser and Gobi for their work on



If ultimately approved, a new passenger line would run from Pittsfield to Boston with a stop in Palmer.

Google Maps screenshot



Facebook screenshot  
Public officials and advocates of a rail stop in Palmer held a virtual rally last week ahead of this week's release of a draft study that opens a public comment period.

the project and talked about how a Pittsfield to Boston train with a stop in Palmer can help level the playing field economically for people who live along the line, especially those in rural communities.

"It would be a shame if we made this investment and then left the smaller, rural towns out of the loop – 175,000 people in 21 communities," she said. Leduc talked about what it would represent to them as well as those around the stop in Palmer.

"We need to have an intermediate stop to make it fair to give people access to employment and other opportunities."

Leduc, who said transportation is one of the topics when the Palmer master plan committee holds its next meeting at the end of the month, wants officials in Boston to realize "it's not just a Western Mass deal" and that a Palmer rail station would reverberate economically in both directions. For example, while it would help people in this area connect with higher paying jobs in the metro area, the rail line could mean access to affordable housing

for others willing to commute.

"It's a full state benefit," Leduc said. [Addressing] the housing crisis in Boston doesn't have to be done through a housing bill."

Another rail advocate, Karen Christensen, of The Train Campaign, said "Palmer is the perfect example" of what she said is "system thinking" and that a rail stop here is a boost for sustainability.

"To make good decisions you have to think about a system and this applies so perfectly to rail. And Palmer is [good] example. Universities are an amazing economic driver. We know this in Boston. We know this in Silicon Valley, frankly. By connecting that kind of economic capital there... Western Massachusetts has been an area of innovation for a long time, so the connection to the Five-College area is incredibly important to Palmer. We can't think of just going from 'A' to 'B' and then back to 'A.' It's about building a network."

One thing Lesser said he doesn't want to hear from other legislators who aren't on-board

with the plan – which Gobi said could realistically come on-line within five years if given the green light – is that it's too difficult.

"There are trains in the Alps," he said. "This isn't putting a man on the Moon."

And considering the need for an economic boost in the region, Lesser says this is essential.

"Our communities in Western Mass are great places to live and great places to grow up, but we're struggling," he said.

"We've seen the job losses, we need the investment, we need the job creation and the great thing is that Boston needs it too because nobody can afford to live in Boston. We know what it takes to get our communities back – it's investment in infrastructure. It's a transformational investment that gets us to a new future that's brighter, and better, and more fair and equitable than the one that we had before."

Gobi, who earlier in the rally talked about how rail transportation provided an opportunity for her grandfather and other immigrants

to earn a living in their new country, said the initiative has come too far to not see it through.

"This has been a long process," she said, and the project's advocates need to do "whatever we have to do to get the folks in Boston on-board with this."

U.S. Rep. Richard Neal (Mass. Dist. 1), said this week he would support the multi billion-dollar project if it's ultimately approved and that the state could use some of its portion of a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure bill passed by the House last summer. The Moving Forward Act, which is stalled in the U.S. Senate, includes a \$19 billion federal appropriation to states to help fund transportation projects.

"I think that an enhanced east-west rail makes good sense," Neal said on Monday.

"The Moving Forward Act, I think, would be one potential [source] for some funding. Remember – federal transportation money goes to states and states decide the prioritization," he said.

Neal also said "I think anybody who has witnessed the success of the Boston to Worcester rail can easily see how that could be expanded."

Whether Palmer should have a stop along the way, Neal says he favors it with the caveat that it would have to be supported by ridership projections.

"But do I think it makes sense? Yes, I do."

## Want to know more?

A draft report is due out Oct. 16 and will be available at mass.gov/east-west-passenger-rail-study. A videoconference via Zoom is scheduled for on Oct. 22, 6 to 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Specifics on how to attend will be available on Mass.gov closer to the meeting date. You can watch all of last week's rally on Lesser's Facebook page. It also shared it on the Journal Register's Facebook page and can be viewed it there as well.



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Applications for businesses located in Belchertown, Hampden, Hardwick, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer and Ware will be available online at [www.QVCDC.org](http://www.QVCDC.org) on October 16.

Businesses that are located in the above towns, with 5 or less employees, may be eligible for up to \$10,000 in grant funding. There are income eligibility and other requirements.

Funding for this program comes from a grant to the Town of Palmer from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development

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## DEATH NOTICES

**Barbara Stockwell**  
Died: Oct. 6, 2020  
Lifelong Palmer  
resident  
Wilbraham Funeral  
Home is assisting the  
family

## The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

## O B I T U A R I E S

### David Foster, 59

MONSON — David W. Foster, 59, passed away Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020, after a brief illness. David was born in Springfield Nov. 29, 1960, to the late Seth and Marie (Steeves) Foster III. He was raised in Springfield before moving to Monson and calling it home. David worked at Milton Bradley/Hasbro Corp in East Longmeadow and then at Lamcote in Monson. He enjoyed coin cutting and crafting the coins into jewelry including necklaces and rings. David also enjoyed spending time at home and the surround-



ing hills of Monson. David leaves his wife Virginia (Dagenais) Foster; two brothers, Michael Foster and his wife Patricia of Easthampton, Raymond Foster and his wife Dee of Monson; a sister, Linda Harrington, and her husband Neil Harrington of Patten, Maine; nine nieces and nephews and six great nieces and nephews as well as his beloved dog "Harley." Services for David will be held Friday, Oct.

16, 2020, at 10 a.m. in St. Patrick's Church in Monson with burial to follow at Bethany Cemetery also in Monson. In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation in David's name to St. Patrick's Church, Martha and

Mary Group in the memo line, PO Box 473 Monson, MA 01057. For online condolences please visit [Lombardfuneralhome.com](http://Lombardfuneralhome.com).

### Camillo M. Jacobs

MONSON — Camillo Mario (Beanie) Jacobs, 84, a lifelong resident of Monson, passed away at home in the care of his loving and devoted family. He now joins his beloved wife Alice "Jean" Jacobs who predeceased him on Feb. 3, 2018, after nearly 57 years of marriage. Camillo was born on Nov. 5, 1935, the son of the late Anthony and Augusta (Santini) Jacobs, of Italy, and was educated in Monson schools.

He served his country honorably in the U.S. Army. He retired from Rathbone Corporation as a machine operator after 20 plus years of service. Prior to that, he ran a rock-crushing machine at Monson Sand and Gravel. Camillo enjoyed spending time with his family, bird watching, hiking at Conant Brook Dam, and he loved his dogs immensely. Most Sundays were spent watching NASCAR races as a lifelong fan of Dale



Earnhardt. Camillo is survived by his daughter and caregiver, Brenda Gagne, and her husband, Joseph, of Monson; his three sons, Christopher Jacobs, and his wife, Linda, of Palmer; Steven Jacobs, and his wife, Marcia, of Bloomfield, Connecticut; Michael Jacobs, and his fiancée, Christina Comerford-Lloyd, of Palmer. Camillo leaves behind a sister, Antoinette Hale, of Florida, as well as his 16 grandchildren, Amy Hersey, and her husband, Dan, Kristen Pelletier, and her husband, Ross, Jason Gagne, Isiah Gagne, Diana Gagne, Shyla Gagne, Alexis Lucia, Angela Hall, and her husband, Kevin, Katherine Jacobs, Jennifer Jacobs, Sean Comerford, Samantha Lloyd, Amanda Lloyd, Brandon Lloyd, and Nick Lloyd. He also leaves four great grandchil-

dren, Austin Hersey, Vanessa, Charles and Archie Pelletier. He was predeceased by a grandson, Omar Gagne, and by his two brothers, Santo and Louis Jacobs.

A graveside service will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10, at 1 p.m., in Bethany Cemetery, Monson along with military honors.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in memory of Camillo Jacobs to support cancer research and patient care at: Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284 or via [www.dana-farber.org/gift](http://www.dana-farber.org/gift).

Please visit [www.lombardfuneralhome.com](http://www.lombardfuneralhome.com) for more details and to share online condolences and memories.

## HCC, new community partner launch cannabis careers training program

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Community College and its new community partner, Elevate Northeast, are launching a revitalized cannabis careers training program in October for those who want to work in the industry.

The program, offered through the Cannabis Education Center, begins the weekend of Oct. 17-18 with two days of required core curriculum training over Zoom.

Each day will be broken down into two sessions, 9 a.m. to noon, and 1 to 4 p.m. Each session will include presentations from cannabis industry experts followed by a question and answer period.

Students who complete the core training will then be eligible to register for spring 2021 classes in one of four cannabis industry career tracks: cultivation assistant, extraction technician, patient services associate, and culinary assistant.

A previous series of cannabis industry training courses offered by HCC and the Cannabis Education Center were suspended in the spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"HCC is proud to partner with Elevate for the sole purpose of helping jobseekers get the training they need to successfully enter the cannabis industry," said Jeffrey Hayden, HCC vice president of Business and Community Services. "At the same time, we look forward to enhancing and expanding our relationships with

cannabis companies in Holyoke and other communities throughout the region. Our goal is to help individuals gain employment while meeting the demand of area businesses."

Dates for the spring career track training sessions have not yet been announced.

Cultivation assistants provide the daily care of the crops from seed to harvest and may be involved in cracking seeds, soil mixing, potting, defoliation, watering, pest control and trimming.

Extraction technicians work in labs assisting production managers in all aspects of extraction, purging, oil manipulation, winterization, distillation, solvent recovery, and quality control.

Patient service associates work behind the counters at cannabis dispensaries, interacting with the public, answering technical questions, and providing information to registered cannabis patients, caregivers, and recreational customers making purchases.

Culinary assistants are responsible for preparing cannabis or cannabinoid-infused products using a variety of cooking, baking,

and infusion techniques. The cost of the two-day core training session is \$595.

Elevate Northeast is a Massachusetts-based, women-founded 501(c)(3) nonprofit, created to support the Northeast U.S.'s growing cannabis industry through workforce training, education and advocacy.

The Cannabis Education Center is based out of HCC's Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development.

To register for Core Cannabis Curriculum class, please go to: [hcc.edu/cannabis-core](http://hcc.edu/cannabis-core)

More information on these and other upcoming classes and programs can be found on the Cannabis Education Center's website - [cannabiseducationcenter.org](http://cannabiseducationcenter.org) or by calling 413-552-2320.

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## NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Journal Register, please email [dfarmer@turley.com](mailto:dfarmer@turley.com).

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## Smola supports bill expanding telehealth option

BOSTON — State Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) supported health care legislation that will provide Massachusetts residents with increased access to telehealth services during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

House Bill 4888, An Act to promote resilience in our health care system, was engrossed by the House of Representatives on July 29 by a vote of 158-0, following two days of debate. The Senate previously passed its own version of the bill (Senate Bill 2796) on June 25.

Smola said the House bill requires both public and private insurers to treat telehealth services in the same manner as in-person doctor visits, with deductibles, co-payments and co-insurance requirements not allowed to exceed the in-person rate. He said these rate parity protections are needed as more residents turn to telehealth as a safer option to help minimize their exposure to the 2019 novel coronavirus.

According to a July 24 Commonwealth Magazine article, 13 percent of medical claims filed nationally in April of 2020 were for telehealth, compared to less than 1 percent in April of 2019. The article also noted that Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts has processed 2.6 million telehealth claims since March 15.

Smola said House Bill 4888 will keep rate parity between in-network telehealth services and in-per-

son services in place until July 31, 2021. The bill also establishes a temporary out-of-network rate for emergency services, and prohibits cost-sharing requirements for all emergency and inpatient services related to COVID-19 delivered by in-network and out-of-network providers during the same time period.

House Bill 4888 also provides permanent rate parity protections for individuals receiving behavioral health services. These services include the diagnosis, treatment and management of patients with mental health or substance use disorders.

In addition, House Bill 4888 includes language:

- directing the Health Policy Commission, in consultation with the Center for Health Information and Analysis, to file a report by Dec. 31, 2022, on telehealth service use in Massachusetts and its effects on health care access and system costs;

- prohibiting MassHealth and its contracted carriers from requiring prior authorization for patients to receive services at an urgent care facility; and

- requiring MassHealth to pay nursing facilities for a 20-day bed hold for any enrollee who is admitted to a hospital for treatment of the 2019 novel coronavirus;

Several amendments to the bill were adopted during floor debate, including proposals to:

- add inpatient services and cognitive rehabilitation services

to the list of services related to the 2019 novel coronavirus that insurers must provide coverage for, through both in-network and out-of-network providers;

- allow for greater physician discretion in issuing prescriptions and refills to patients via telehealth without requiring an in-person visit;

- expand the requirement for providers to offer coverage for all emergency and inpatient services related to COVID-19 to include all medically necessary outpatient testing, including testing of asymptomatic individuals;

- prohibit acute care hospitals from discontinuing any essential health service while the COVID-19 State of Emergency remains in effect;

- direct the House of Representatives' Commonwealth Resilience and Recovery Special Committee to hold a hearing to determine the available supplies of personal protective equipment for acute care hospitals and other entities, and to determine anticipated demand for PPE; and

- require EOHS to establish an online PPE exchange for health care and elder care providers;

The House and the Senate will now try to reconcile the differences between the two bills by appointing a conference committee. For additional information please contact Smola at [Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov](mailto:Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov) or 617-722-2100.

## Treasurer announces \$30 million in municipal water projects

### Funds will help disadvantage communities address lead in drinking water

BOSTON — State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, chairman of the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust, announced today the allocation of \$30 million in additional grants for municipal projects to address lead in drinking water for disadvantaged communities.

The Trust voted on Wednesday to administer the funds to support future investments in local water projects. The new grant program will be implemented with guidance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and engineering and technical support from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

The funds will assist cities and towns most in need of financial assistance to help pay for remediation efforts addressing lead in drinking water or planning projects to identify sources of lead for remediation.

Eligible project types include but not limited to:

- Planning and design
- Replacement of lead service lines
- Corrosion control projects
- Lead removal/treatment

"Protecting the health and safety of Massachusetts residents is a critical priority for our Administration," said Gov. Charlie Baker. "The allocation of this funding will assist disadvantaged communities with crucial maintenance projects, including the replacement of lead service lines, leading to cleaner, safer water."

"This funding from the Clean Water Trust will support important remediation efforts in municipalities across Massachusetts," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "By funding the planning and design of water systems in disadvantaged communities, our Administration is building on our commitment to ensure safe, healthy drinking water for all Commonwealth residents."

"As chair of the Clean Water Trust, I am pleased to work with the Baker-Polito Administration, MassDEP, and EPA to provide funds to local communities that will protect the health of our citizens and create a cleaner environment," said Treasurer and Receiver General Deborah B. Goldberg. "This \$30 million will help reduce the cost of these projects and assist communities in providing lead free drinking water to our most vulnerable residents."

"EPA is proud that the commonwealth of Massachusetts took advantage of the flexibility to fund projects to reduce lead in drinking water, as provided by the Water Infrastructure Funding Transfer Act," said U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator Dennis Deziel. Communities across the commonwealth will now be eligible to apply for this \$30 million dollar program funded by a one-time transfer from the Clean Water to the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund. "I applaud Governor Baker, Treasurer Goldberg, and their teams for their commitment to protecting the health of children by

supporting projects to reduce their exposure to lead in drinking water."

"MassDEP is pleased to partner with the Clean Water Trust to invest in projects to remove lead from drinking water," said MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg, who is a member of the Clean Water Trust. "This funding helps our communities protect public health and improve water quality."

"The Baker-Polito Administration is pleased to continue partnering with Massachusetts cities and towns to support increased access to clean water," said Secretary of Administration and Finance Michael J. Heffernan. "These grants will allow municipalities to carry out important water infrastructure improvement projects that help ensure residents and families have safe, lead-free drinking water."

The Trust improves the water quality in the commonwealth by providing capital financing to cities, towns and other eligible entities to help protect and improve their water infrastructure. These funds will be awarded to disadvantaged communities that have eligible projects on the 2020, 2021 and 2022 MassDEP Intended Use Plans.

Since its establishment in 1989, the Clean Water Trust has loaned nearly \$7.6 billion to improve and maintain the quality of water in the Commonwealth. An estimated 97 percent of Massachusetts' residents have benefited from the financial assistance of the Trust.

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## Big Y donates to breast cancer support groups

SPRINGFIELD — In order to continue to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer, all Big Y Supermarkets will be donating proceeds from various departments throughout the store to 32 local breast cancer support groups throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut. Since 2007, the chain has raised more than \$2 million dollars for this cause. The program, "Partners of Hope" reflects the partnership, commitment and support of breast cancer awareness and research that is vital for so many.

During the entire month of October, Big Y will donate a portion of the proceeds from

both the Floral and Produce purchases including Sunshine Bouquets. Additionally, Big

Y will donate 5 cents for each Big Y's family of brands including, Full Circle Organics,

Culinary Tours, Cravlin' Flavor, Food Club, That's Smart, Wide Awake Coffee, Sweet P's Bake Shop, Top Care Health, Tippy Toes, Pure Harmony and Paw's Happy Life

purchased between Oct. 8 and 14 (some exclusions may apply). Big Y Butcher

Shops will donate ten cents from every pound of All Natural Angus Beef and Big Y

Smart Chicken sold during the entire month of October and Big Y Pharmacy & Wellness

Center will also donate \$5 for every flu shot given. New this year customers can also

donate directly to Partner's of Hope via [bigy.com/community/breastcancerawareness](http://bigy.com/community/breastcancerawareness)

Big Y's dietitian team, Carrie Taylor and Andrea Luttrell, will devote a portion of their fall newsletter to cancer prevention.

According to Big Y CEO, Charles D'Amour, "During these challenging and stressful

times, it has never been more important to take care of one's health. Thousands of women and many men are impacted each year by breast cancer. With a renewed focus

on health and wellness and the importance of breast cancer awareness and early detection, we hope that this initiative

can not only help save lives but some day lead to

better treatments and ultimately a cure."

The beneficiaries this year will include the following organizations:

Massachusetts

Amherst UMASS

Protect our

Breasts Program

Boston Mass General Hospital Gil-

lette Center for Breast Cancer

Boston Brigham & Women's Hospital

Breast Oncology Program

Boston Susan F. Smith Center for

Women's Cancers

Boston Boston Medical Center Bel-

kin Breast Health Center

Boston American Cancer Society

Making Strides Again Breast Cancer of

Boston Holyoke HMC Breast Health Center

The Pink W.A.Y. (Women Around You)

Longmeadow Survivor Journeys

Breast Cancer Program

Northampton Cancer-Connection

Northampton Cooley Dickinson Hos-

pit Women's Health Care

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Pittsfield Berkshire Medical Center

Women's Imaging Center

South Weymouth South Shore Health

Systems

Springfield Baystate Health Founda-

tion Rays of Hope

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Center

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including 71 supermarkets, Fresh Acres Market, Table & Vine Fine Wines and Li-

quors

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ience locations with almost 12,000 em-

ployees.

## Brookfields Rotary completes school desk shields project

Wrapping up a project that began in August, Brookfields Rotary and its partners now have assembled and delivered over 125 protective Plexiglass desk shields to seven Elementary schools in our area. The schools receiving shields are located in Brookfield, East Brookfield, North Brookfield, Wire Village Elementary in Spencer, and Burgess Elementary in Sturbridge as well as Warren and West Brookfield.

These shields were made possible by the collaboration of two Rotary Clubs, Brookfields and Sturbridge; the club's non-profit partner Angels Answer Inc., our business partner on the project, Country Auto Body in North Brookfield, and several generous donors. The shields were constructed over several weeks from high quality components. The club is grateful to volunteer Ron Lapointe for his help in securing and cutting the Plexiglas.

The club asked Rotary project leader Mark Minucci, an official in the North Brookfields School District, to comment on the value of the shields to our local schools. "This project really shows how Rotary works," he said. "Brookfields Rotary assembled a collaborative team that has provided additional equipment that not only helps with safety but also gives staff and

teachers peace of mind that they can deliver services to students. It has been invaluable to my District and other Districts in the greater Brookfield area."

Lynn Duffy-O'Shea, president of Brookfields Rotary, spoke about the project and its reception in the schools.

"In this difficult time, where in-person activities are limited, being able to come together safely to cut and assemble Plexiglas protective shields with our partnering club, the Sturbridge Rotary Club, was amazing," she said. "Everyone working outdoors as a team, while maintaining safe distances and masks to make this project come together in fast and efficient way, was key so that the finished shields could be delivered to the schools as soon as possible. The principals and staff were overjoyed with happiness and thankfulness of Rotary's continued support to the needs of the community schools."

The enthusiasm of local school leaders is represented in this note from Burgess Elementary School Nurse, Lisa Meunier: "Thank you so very much for your hard work and wonderful design of the desk shields! They are far superior to the type we have purchased and much appreciated. I have shared them with our speech therapists, occupational ther-



Brookfields Rotary President Lynn Duffy O'Shea and her niece Alaina, a student of Warren Community Elementary School, with one of the Plexiglas shields the club provided to local schools.

apists, reading and math specialists who work with individual students, our psychologists who do testing and our guidance counselors. The design is perfect and the only type we have found that allows for passing of paper or objects under the shield—very important for all of them. They were all very excited to receive them. Thank you so much for all of your hard work and determination to make things better and support our school during this challenging time. It is so nice to have your support and interest in the success of our students and school community. Thanks to all of you."

The Brookfields Rotary Club extends its appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of this project and to making the return to school safer for the students and faculty.

Brookfields Rotary is a service organization of Rotary International. The club's more than 20 business and professional leaders provide humanitarian and social services to residents in the Quaboag Valley communities of the Brookfields, Spencer and Warren. Please support our generous sponsors.

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## Public Notices

(SEAL)  
COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS  
LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF THE  
TRIAL COURT  
20 SM 001566  
ORDER OF NOTICE  
TO:

Evelyn F. Beyor  
and to all persons entitled  
to the benefit of the  
Servicemembers Civil  
Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §  
3901 et seq.:

Nationstar Mortgage

LLC d/b/a Champion

Mortgage Company

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Monson, numbered 183 Palmer Rd., given by Evelyn F. Beyor and Wayne M. Beyor to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., dated December 21, 2007, and recorded or filed in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 17090, Page 30, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant/s/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **November 16, 2020** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on September 29, 2020.

Attest:  
Deborah J. Patterson  
Recorder  
10/15/2020

CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by: Wayne D. Trombly of Monson, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Wayne D. Trombly of Monson, MA and Janet Cronwell of Powder Springs, GA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/22/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED  
ADMINISTRATION  
UNDER THE  
MASSACHUSETTS  
UNIFORM PROBATE  
CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court, Date: September 24, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin  
Register of Probate  
10/15/2020

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## Pumpkin Show in Stockbridge open through Oct. 31

STOCKBRIDGE – The Trustees of Reservations (The Trustees) has announced the return of The Incredible Naumkeag Pumpkin Show at Naumkeag, beginning Oct. 1 and running through Oct. 31.

The show, now in its second year, will feature more than 1,500 jack-o'-lanterns, light displays and autumn surprises spread across the eight acres of designed landscape at the Gilded Age estate and public garden.

While the event will be adjusted to accommodate the regulations outlined by the Commonwealth to ensure the safety of our guests and staff, the Pumpkin Show will still offer the same magic and imagination that Trustees said visitors have come to expect at Naumkeag's seasonal events.

"Fall is such a special time here in the Berkshires and we are so happy to be able to offer this experience again this year. While the number of people we are able to welcome to the property may be limited, the size, scope and spirit of the show will be bigger than ever," said Brian Cruey, Southern Berkshire Director for The Trustees.



Due to COVID, only 50 people will be allowed on the property at a time. Guests to the Incredible Naumkeag Pumpkin Show will be required to wear masks, practice social distancing, and limit their visit to one hour in order to ensure as many people as possible get to experience the show. Pre-purchased, res-

ervation-based tickets will be mandatory, and no tickets will be sold on-property.

"We're asking everyone for their cooperation to make this event a success as there are a number of logistical challenges we're working through that will require an effort on everyone's part to keep the show up and running smooth-

ly," Cruey said. "But we're confident the event everyone loved so much last year will be even bigger, better, and more memorable in 2020."

In addition to the display of jack-o'-lanterns, visitors will be able to enjoy snacks at the concession stand, participate in a scavenger hunt for kids, and have the option to purchase a pumpkin to take home when you purchase tickets in advance online.

The Incredible Naumkeag Pumpkin Show will run from Oct. 1-31 every Wednesday-Sunday from 4 – 9 p.m.

Tickets to the Incredible Naumkeag Pumpkin Show went on sale to the public on Friday, Sept. 18. To buy tickets, view pricing and get more information about the event visit this link. Those who want to become Trustees members to enjoy lower prices on these tickets and for other events can join now at [thetrustees.org/membership/](http://thetrustees.org/membership/).

The Trustees is also excited to announce its Winterlights event will be taking place at the end of this year, with more information coming soon.

## Continuing Professional Education forum kicks off 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with fall series

WESTFIELD – Attorneys Hyman Darling, Juiles Dialessi-Lafley and Lisa Halbert will be speakers at the Oct. 20 opening session of The Continuing Professional Education Forum. Celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year, the CPE Forum will offer its six-week Fall series online with live streaming.

On Oct. 27, Attorney Steven Weiss of Shattz, Schwartz & Fenton will address the New "Small Business" Chapter 11. An Economic Outlook will be discussed on Nov. 3 by Michael Gregory of Morgan Stanley and Christos Mihopoulos of Blackrock Investments.

Matthew A. Blumenfeld will present on Deploying Historic and New Markets Tax Credits for Capital Projects on Nov. 10. Shawn Weaver of Northeast IT Systems will speak on Email Security on Nov. 17. The series concludes Nov. 24 with the four-hour Tax Update presented by members of the Tax Committee of the MA Society CPA's.

The CPE Forum was established in 1980 by Josephine Sarnelli, CPA. She continues to volunteer her services in organizing 40 hours of educational programming each year. The CPE Forum's mission is to provide high quality educational programs at a low cost to business professionals, including Certified Public Accountants and others seeking continuing professional educational (CPE) credits for licensing purposes. It is also open to the general community.

The cost of attending the entire Fall series is only \$100, which provides 19 hours of continuing professional education credits. All programs are three hours in length and start at 3 p.m., except for the four-hour Tax Update which begins at 2 p.m.

The Tuesday afternoon online sessions can be accessed using a laptop, desktop computer, tablet or smartphone. No camera or microphone are required to participate. Advance registration is required. Payment to the CPE Forum should be mailed to 14 Mill Street, Westfield, MA 01085. For more information, visit [www.cpeforum.org](http://www.cpeforum.org) or phone (413) 746-9067.



## Rays of Hope to hold hybrid virtual challenge

SPRINGFIELD – Until there is a cure for breast cancer, "hope" will never be canceled, even in the face of the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic.

Twenty seven years ago Rays of Hope made history with the first Rays of Hope Walk Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer, and this October another chapter is being added with the first Rays of Hope Walk and Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer Hybrid Virtual Challenge 2020.

"Our first priority is the health and safety of our community, including the Rays of Hope family. Now more than ever, cancer survivors need our support and we cannot afford to stop the important research funded by this event. We are excited to offer this creative, twist on our annual gathering so that we can continue to spread hope, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Kathy Tobin, director of Annual Giving and Events for Baystate Health Foundation.

There are three important and easy steps to join this year's Rays of Hope

event: Register as an individual, create or join a team. This year there is a \$30 registration fee, which includes a collectible Rays of Hope 2020 t-shirt.

Participants can begin their fundraising immediately by asking friends, family, co-workers and neighbors to make a donation. They can create their own online fundraising page including asking for donations in lieu of birthday or wedding gifts, providing challenges and incentives. People can also host their own socially distant and safe fundraising event such as a dress down day, virtual pink party or whatever creative concept they can design.

This year they can walk or run whenever and whenever they choose from now through October. If they prefer, maps and directions to replicate the traditional Rays of Hope routes are available on the ROH website.

Then, Sunday, Oct. 25, there will be an innovative new drive-through Parade of Hope from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. for registered participants. The event will be held

at Baystate Health's 361 Whitney Avenue facility in Holyoke.

With their ROH Registration displayed on the dashboard, participants will drive under the iconic Golden Years' sponsored Pink Arch. Images and messages of hope will be displayed on the Pink Jumbotron, sponsored by Radiology & Imaging, as they drive the route. A radio station will entertain during the drive and there will even be a traditional water stop along the route. The drive-through Parade of Hope offers participants the opportunity to pick up their 2020 t-shirt. BIG WIGS, who raise \$1,000 or more online, can pick up their special goodie bags. Breast Cancer survivors will also receive a gift from the Pink Hope Lounge.

Then, at noon, following the parade, there will be an online Pink Celebration. The event will feature 2020 Rays of Hope Chairs Al and Jackie Rodriguez, as well as Rays of Hope founder Lucy Giuggio Carvalho and a hopeful message from Dr. Grace Makari-Judson, chair,

Baystate Health Breast Network, and co-director of the Rays of Hope Center for Breast Cancer Research. There will also be entertainment, a salsa lesson and more online fun.

All Rays of Hope funds remain local to support breast cancer survivors in western Massachusetts, the Rays of Hope Center for Breast Cancer Research and local community programs. This year's Rays of Hope major sponsors include Baystate Breast & Wellness Center, Baystate Breast Specialists, Radiology & Imaging, Golden Years Home Care Services, Kinsley Power Systems, USA Waste & Recycling Inc. and Zasco Productions. A listing of all sponsors can be found on the Rays of Hope website.

Also, all Baystate Health Foundation events are underwritten by Health New England. For more information about this year's Rays of Hope event, people may call 413-794-8001 or visit Rays of Hope Walk & Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer Hybrid Virtual Challenge 2020.

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